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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat, al-Baz Depart Tunis To Meet al-Qadhdhafi in Libya

NC0904164593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, 9 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Tunis for Libya this afternoon for a meeting with Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Baz said he will deliver a message to Col al-Qadhdhafi from President Husni Mubarak dealing with the outcome of his tour of the United States and Europe, especially regarding the Lockerbie issue and the peace process.

Arab League Head Returns, Comments on Libyan-Western Crisis

NC1004180793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo this evening from New York after a 10-day tour that took him to Austria, Britain, and the United States. Speaking upon his arrival, 'Abd-al-Majid said that during his visit to London, he met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali on Saturday, 3 April, to discuss developments in the region, particularly the Libyan-Western crisis, the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Middle East peace process. He added that he also conferred with the president and permanent members of the Security Council to discuss ways to avert any escalation in the Libyan-Western crisis.

'Abd-al-Majid said he hopes that during the time limit set by the Security Council, more contacts will be held among the parties involved in the crisis to find a peaceful settlement. He added that intense contacts are expected to be held soon among the Arab League and the parties involved in the crisis. He added that the seven-member Arab ministerial committee will meet on the sideline of the Arab foreign ministers meeting, scheduled to be held in Cairo on 18 April, to discuss the results of these contacts and a future plan of action.

Concluding his arrival statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that while in New York, he met with Libya's permanent delegate to the United Nations to brief him on the outcome of his talks with Security Council members.

AMU Memorandum to UN Over Damage Caused by Resolution 748

LD0704085693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] ambassadors at the United Nations have decided to charge the Moroccan ambassador to present a memorandum to the Security Council chairman and the UN secretary general over the damage which befell the Jamahiriyah and the AMU as a consequence of the measures imposed on the Jamahiriyah in connection with the implementation of Resolution 748. [passage omitted]

Arab Maghreb Union Creates Journalists Association

LD1104165993 Tripoli JANA in English 1617 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, Al Tayr 11, Jamahiryah News Agency—The press unions in the Arab Maghreb Union yesterday decided to set up one organisation called the Association of Journalists of the Arab Maghreb Union.

A statement issued after the meeting held in Tunis said that the association was aimed at the consolidation of member organisations, developing common press action and participation in the promotion of press work and freedom of the press.

Also the aim of the association is to improve the professional, material and moral situation of journalists and consolidation of solidarity between journalists at local, regional and international levels.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary-General's Statement on Arrival in Tripoli

LD1104194793 Tripoli JANA in English 1838 GMT 11 Apr 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr [April] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. Hamed al-Ghabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO], this afternoon arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr. al-Ghabid made a statement to JANA saying that his visit came to inspect the effects of the coercive measures imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah so as to enable him to compile a report about this issue to be submitted to the Islamic foreign ministers for consideration in their meeting in Karachi.

Dr. al-Ghabid pointed out that the Islamic conference which was held in Dakar in Senegal reaffirmed the solidarity of the Islamic Conference Organisation with the Great Jamahiriyah.

He said "as a secretary general of the organisation I undertook several moves in support of the Jamahiriyah in implementation of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

He added that the forthcoming ministerial meeting in Karachi, Pakistan, will reassess the situation so that the organisation will take the action which may embody solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr. al-Ghabid reiterated the organisation's rejection of the coercive measures against the Great Jamahiriyah. He asserted "we will continue our contacts with the U.N and the Security Council so as to lift these measures. He highlighted the solidarity of the Islamic nation with the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr. al-Ghabid expressed satisfaction at the courageous stances taken by the leader of the revolution and the judicious policy being followed by the Jamahiriyah in dealing with the crisis between herself and the Western countries.

He lauded the efforts being exerted by the Great Jamahiriyah towards finding a just and fair solution to events in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He expressed satisfaction towards these stances.

Dr. al-Ghabid is accompanied in his visit, which comes within the context of preparations being made by the organisation to convene the 21st conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers, Dr. al-Hadi Khnitesh, the assistant secretary general, Nureddin al-Mazni and Mohammed al-Zayat, both advisors to the secretary general.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi To Lead Team to U.S. Within 48 Hours

JN1204072993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Apr 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian legislative elections in the occupied territories and the finalisation of a "package of statements and commitments" will be discussed with U.S. officials during a visit by a Palestinian delegation to Washington in the next 48 hours, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official said Sunday.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will lead the Palestinian delegation to the talks with senior members of the U.S. State Department, the PLO official said on condition of anonymity.

"The possibility of legislative elections in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza will be discussed during talks in Washington," said the PLO official, speaking to the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

A 180-seat legislature will be discussed by the Palestinian delegation with American officials, the sources said.

The Palestinians will stress the need for such a self-governing infrastructure in the interim period of self-rule, the official said. But the topic of legislative elections will only be one in a number of priority issues for the Palestinians in Washington.

The list of issues on the agenda, Palestine Central Council (PCC) member Salih Ra'fat said, will be expected in simultaneous announcements by the Palestinians, Israelis and Americans.

"An (Israeli) commitment not to resort to deportation of Palestinians will be at the head of the agenda," he said.

According to PLO sources, statements and gestures expected to come from the Israeli government before and immediately after the scheduled resumption of talks April 20 are expeced to include 1) repatriation of some 130 to 150 exiles in southern Lebanon; 2) repatriation of some 40 to 50 Palestinian "personalities" expelled since 1967; 3) a commitment not to resort to the expelled [as published] of any more Palestinians; 4) a release of a large number of Palestinians jailed for intifada-related incidents; 5) a scaling- down of the Israeli military presence in Palestinian cities and towns, and 6) a statement committing the Israeli government not to use collective punishment such as the destruction of homes.

Another "essential" issue to be included in the Palestinian- American talks will be the confirmed linkage between the interim and final stages of the peace talks.

"We have always insisted that these two stages must be organically linked, while the Israelis want to separate them," Mr. Ra'fat said.

An announcement of the acceptance of such a linkage may be made by the Israelis in the statements which the PLO says Israel will make prior to the scheduled resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks April 20.

"We hope to be able to come to an agreement on an agenda with the Israelis so that we don't spend this next round arguing about the agenda again," Mr. Ra'fat said.

The Palestinians will insist that the linkage between the interim and final stages be agreed upon and the principle on withdrawal from all areas occupied in the 1967 war be accepted.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, will remain the head of the bilateral negotiating team for the Palestinians even after Faysal al-Husayni becomes an official member of the negotiating team, a senior PLO source said from Tunis.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will be the head of the bilateral team. Muhammad al-Hallaj will be the overall head of the multilateral team and Faysal al-Husayni will be the head of the negotiating team as a whole," said the official.

The Palestinian delegation which will be led this week to Washington by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi will include negotiators Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Nabil Qassis, Su'ad al-Amari, and Ghassan al-Khatib.

Comments on Conditions for Talks

JN1104083993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 22

[By Muhammad Dalbah in Washington]

[Excerpt] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the settlement negotiations, has stressed that the Palestinians will not accept any promises before ensuring their implementation by Israel and the United States.

U.S. officials have emphasized that they presented a specific deal to the Palestinians that meets some of the Palestinian demands, but will not implement them before the Palestinian delegation announces its acceptance to participate in the next round of negotiations and to go to Washington on the date set by the United States for resuming the ninth round of negotiations on 20 April.

In a telephone interview from his home in Gaza, where he returned last Friday, 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the Palestinian delegation's conditions for returning to the negotiations table have not changed. The delegation still insists that Israel should implement Security Council Resolution 799 on the return of all Palestinian deportees who were expelled by Israel last December. The delegation also insists that Israel should promise to stop the deportation policy and its violations of the Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories, in addition to other issues the delegation presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to the occupied territories last February.

'Abd-al-Shafi said the delegation has received a U.S. invitation for preparatory talks with the U.S. officials to be held in Washington next week on resuming the next round of negotiations.

'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized that he will continue to head the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and that this is a national duty he is carrying out in the interest of the Palestinian people's just cause. [passage omitted]

Nusaybah Endorses Return to Negotiating Table

TA0904185893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Interview with Dr. Sari Nusaybah, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Yoni Ben-Menahem on 9 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Dr. Sari Nusaybah, yesterday the Palestinian delegation received an invitation to participate in preliminary consultations in Washington. What is the Palestinian stance toward this invitation?

[Nusaybah] Naturally, we are awaiting a response from the Palestinian leadership on this issue; however, first, I believe that it is very possible that we will comply with this invitation, and it is in our interest to do so. Second, this invitation does not differ from previous ones, in response to which we participated in preliminary talks with the United States prior to scheduled rounds of bilateral negotiations. Consequently, I do not believe that these talks are different from previous ones in which we participated. Therefore, one can participate in these talks. On the other hand, I believe that in these talks it will be possible to remove the remaining obstacles in order to participate in the negotiations on 20 April.

[Ben-Menahem] You have a stance that differs from that of some Palestinian politicians. You endorse a return to the negotiating table in the round of 20 April.

[Nusaybah] Yes, everyone has his own personal views and opinions and, naturally, I express them. I believe we entered this political process in order to achieve a specific goal. This is a strategic goal to which we should continue to adhere. I believe that we should not give an opportunity to others to divert us from this goal. We must persist in achieving this goal. The goal, I think, is liberation from occupation. This is the main goal, which should be achieved through stages and through these negotiations. I believe that we must exhaust all possibilities and means, through these talks, in order to explore and see whether it is indeed possible to achieve this goal. In my opinion Israel, for its part, can change the living conditions of the Palestinians so that there will be support for the negotiating process.

[Ben-Menahem] Reports today referred to Israeli agreement on the participation of Faysal al-Husayni in the negotiations as head of the Palestinian delegation. Do you think that this will help the Palestinians to take part in the upcoming round of negotiations?

[Nusaybah] First of all I would like to say that anyway brother Faysal al-Husayni is head of the Palestinian team. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is head of the delegation within the Palestinian team. This will not change even if we were to assume that brother Faysal will participate in the negotiations, whether bilateral or multilateral. This will not alter the status of other individuals—the head of the bilateral delegation or heads of the multilateral delegations. As for the other part of your question, I believe that if these reports are true, we should consider this a very significant achievement. It signifies the collapse of one of the unfair conditions that we accepted against our wish at the beginning of negotiations. Therefore, we should take this development into consideration and it should encourage us to go to the talks. That is, of course, if other demands are also complied with by the Israeli side. I specifically mean human rights as a whole, including deportations. Secondly, the substance which Israel puts forward at the negotiating table. We want progress to be achieved on these fronts. I believe that if there is progress it will be possible not only to return to the negotiating table, but also to achieve momentum for upcoming negotiations. In my view, the presence of brother Faysal will be an immense achievement for the Palestinian side.

'Sources' Expect U.S., Israel To Meet Demands

NC1004065293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Citing reliable Palestinian sources, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says the United States and Israel have approved most of the Palestinian

demands submitted to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his recent visit to Jerusalem as part of a tour of the region. These demands represent the Palestinian conditions for responding positively to the invitation to hold the ninth round of the bilateral talks in Washington on 20 April. Christopher has agreed that his government will commit itself to implementing five of the six demands submitted to him. Some of these demands will be announced shortly while the rest will be announced with the beginning of the next round of talks.

In its 10 April issue, AL-AHRAM says the six points that were a subject of discussion among the United States, Israel, and the Arab states, including Egypt and Palestine, are:

1. Israel will declare principles regarding the subject of deportation and recent and previous deportees. Thirty-four of those deported since 1967 will be returned.

2. Israel will take several steps in the field of Palestinian human rights. In implementation of this, a group of detainees will be released.

3. There will be openness on essential topics at the table of negotiations, such as the topic of Jerusalem.

4. The Madrid formula for the Middle East Peace Conference will be revised and the role of the participation of the representatives of occupied Jerusalem and the diaspora in the talks will be defined.

5. A Palestinian-Israeli committee to discuss the shaky infrastructure in the occupied territories will be formed.

6. The current ban on the PLO will be ended.

The newspaper says the last point is still under discussion.

Al-Husayni's New Role in Peace Negotiations Reported

Says 'Good Chance' for Attendance

TA1004104193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian advisory council, in Tunis, by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Text] [Talmor] We have just received an overseas call from Faysal al-Husayni, good morning to you.

[Al-Husayni] Good morning.

[Talmor] Where are you calling from?

[Al-Husayni] From Tunis.

[Talmor] So you are in Tunis now. Has it already been decided and agreed that you will be appointed head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel?

[Al-Husayni] I have to tell you that the titular head of the delegation does not head the delegation. I can sit down at the negotiating table as the head of the entire negotiating delegation, I lead the teams on both the bilateral and multilateral tracks; however, the head of the team for the bilateral talks is Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Dr. al-Hallaj heads the multilateral group. From time to time, however, I can take part in the actual negotiations if this becomes necessary.

[Talmor] In other words, you will not officially become a member of the delegation?

[Al-Husayni] I will be a member of the delegation, but like I told you before, I will not be limited to one of the tracks but will also be involved in the multilateral talks.

[Talmor] When was it formally decided in Tunis that you would become an active member?

[Al-Husayni] I do not think that there is any problem in Tunis. If we decide to attend the negotiations in Washington on 20 April then I will be there.

[Talmor] In other words, the Palestinians will return to the talks with Israel on 20 April in Washington?

[Al-Husayni] Look, we still have several demands. We are examining and considering the matter, and I believe that we will issue our response within several days or hours.

[Talmor] What are you still demanding from the Israeli Government in return for renewing the negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Look, it is not a matter of what we get in return for attending the talks on 20 April. We cannot base our policy on things like that. However, certain major subjects [previous word in English] remain unclear and we want clarifications. Therefore, we are not seeking any rewards.

[Talmor] Do you still demand the return of all the deportees before agreeing to attend the talks?

[Al-Husayni] No, we are talking about issues that we would like to understand better. Several things are still unclear and we would like clarifications. We say that we want all the people to return and that would be a positive development; however, that is not a precondition.

[Talmor] So that is no longer a precondition for resuming the negotiations. I conclude from your statements, Mr. Faysal al- Husayni, that your delegation will return to the talks on 20 April. Am I right?

[Al-Husayni] Listen, as I just told you, there are still certain matters related to the issues of the deportees and the deportations that we need to receive clarifications about before we can give our answer. That is what we are working on right now. No decision has been reached yet; however, I believe that some discussions are underway.

[Talmor] In other words, there is a very good chance that the Palestinians will attend the negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Let us say that there is a great deal of desire to resume the talks, and we hope that Israel shares a similar hope to launch fruitful [previous word in English] negotiations.

[Talmor] The Palestinians will return to the peace talks with you as a member of the delegation negotiating with Israel?

[Al-Husayni] Like I said, there are still things that have to be clarified with Israel. If things are cleared up, I think there is a good chance that the talks will be resumed.

[Talmor] Mr. al-Husayni, would you like to say something in conclusion?

[Al-Husayni] I would like to take this opportunity to say that we are in the midst of a very difficult period, but I am sure that while peace can bring security, the opposite is not always true. Both we and the Israelis must pay a certain price but please look at it this way: peace will bring security, but security cannot always guarantee peace.

[Talmor] Thank you for calling us, and have a happy holiday.

Officials React

JN0904200493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Reacting to reports that Faysal al-Husayni will join the Palestinian negotiating delegation, Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has explained that this does not solve the problem of Palestinians' participation in negotiations because there are many outstanding issues, including the fate of the Palestinians who were deported to Lebanese territory.

Jamil Hilal, an official in the PLO Information Department, announced in Tunis today that al-Husayni's joining the Palestinian delegation, which holds negotiations with Israel, has been in response to a Palestinian request. Hilal said that the approval of this request is a step in the right direction, and is also a favorable response to the Palestinian request that personalities from East Jerusalem be represented in the Palestinian delegation. Regarding the replacement of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the current head of the negotiating delegation, Hilal said: The Palestinian leadership has never considered or proposed a change in Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's role as head of the Palestinian negotiators. All the Palestinian forces want 'Abd-al-Shafi's to continue to shoulder his responsibilities as head of the delegation, Hilal added.

Salah Salamah [of Radio Monte Carlo] has asked Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], about this matter.

[Begin recording] [Salamah] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif: It has been decided that Faysal al-Husayni should join the Palestinian negotiating delegation. What is Faysal al-Husayni's status in this delegation?

[Abu-Sharif] As you know, brother Faysal al-Husayni has been the head of the Palestinian negotiating team, which comprises the official delegation, as well as all the advisers on various matters related to the negotiations. However, the Israeli approval of brother Faysal's joining the Palestinian delegation is very significant. I believe that this approval is a step in the right direction. As is known, Faysal al-Husayni is from Jerusalem. This means that the Israeli Government's previous opposition to the joining of the negotiating delegation by East Jerusalem Palestinians has ended.

[Salamah] What, in particular, will Faysal al-Husayni's status be? What will be the fate of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation?

[Abu-Sharif] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is the head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation and will remain the head.

[Salamah] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif: This afternoon, the Palestinian leadership ended its meetings with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, adviser to President Husni Mubarak. What issues were discussed in these meetings? Were any specific results obtained?

[Abu-Sharif] Dr. Usamah al-Baz briefed the Palestinian leadership and President Yasir 'Arafat on the talks held in Washington during President Husni Mubarak's meeting with President Clinton. The discussion and briefing focused on ways to remove the remaining obstacles to the forthcoming session of negotiations in Washington on 20 April.

[Salamah] Was there any agreement on a specific stand with regard to this round of talks?

[Abu-Sharif] I can say that the Israeli decision on approving Palestinians from East Jerusalem in the negotiating delegation is a step in the right direction. However, there are other obstacles. We hope that President Husni Mubarak, who supported the PLO's stand in Washington, will remove these obstacles when he meets with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin soon.

[Salamah] Thank you, Bassam Abu-Sharif. [end recording]

For his part, our correspondent in Tunis Muhammad Kurayshan has contacted Faysal al-Husayni, currently in the Tunisian capital. Faysal al-Husayni denied any change in the leadership of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

[Begin Kurayshan recording] In an exclusive statement to Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Tunis, Faysal al-Husayni has asserted that his status entitles him to lead the Palestinian delegation, whether on the bilateral or multilateral level. He added that this matter was not applied previously due to the Israeli stand that was opposed to the presence of an East Jerusalem Palestinian within the delegation. Al-Husayni said that his possible presence in the forthcoming round in Washington will be particularly significant, and means that the Israelis have

begun to deal with the reality in a better way. Al-Husayni added that he is, of course, an East Jerusalem citizen, belongs to a Jerusalem family, and owns property in Jerusalem. As for having property in another city, this is another story, al-Husayni said. Al-Husayni, currently in Tunis to attend the Palestinian leadership's meetings with Usamah al-Baz, adviser to the Egyptian president, denied any change in the Palestinian delegation's leadership. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will remain head of the Palestinian delegation in the bilateral talks, while Dr. Muhammad al-Hallaj will be head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in the multilateral talks. Al-Husayni said that his possible presence will be in his capacity as head of the Palestinian team as a whole, and not as head of the negotiating delegation in the bilateral talks. [end recording]

Comments on New Role

NC1004130893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, 10 Apr (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory team to the peace talks, has said that it is his right to sit, if necessary, at the negotiating table with the Israeli side, not as head of the Palestinian delegation, but as head of the negotiating team [al-fariq al-mufawid] that comprises the Palestinian delegations to the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Al-Husayni said that he has relations with both delegations and that his participation in the talks as head of the Palestinian team rather than any of the delegations is one of the proposed solutions.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, al-Husayni said: When we need to involve anyone, be it from Jerusalem or elsewhere, in the negotiations we will do so and Israel will have to respond to that, either by coming to the talks or staying away.

Asked if there is U.S.-Israeli approval of his participation in the peace negotiations, al-Husayni said: This is what we heard.

Al-Husayni pointed out that the recent visit to Washington by himself and a Palestinian delegation took place at the request of the Palestinians. He added: We wanted to discuss some crucial issues with the Americans.

Al-Husayni said that the Palestinians will reach a decision concerning participation in the coming round of talks within the next few days. He described the recent visit to Washington by President Husni Mubarak as positive, adding that the Palestinians have conveyed this assessment to Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Interviewed on Peace Talks

JN1004203893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondents Salah Salamah and Faridah al-Shubashi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Brother Faysal al-Husayni: It has been decided that you will join the Palestinian negotiating delegation despite Israel's objection since the Madrid conference. What are the political implications of this Israeli retreat, and will this step pave the way for other personalities from occupied Jerusalem to join the negotiating delegation?

[Al-Husayni] First, the main implication is that Israel has begun dealing with facts as they are. This is a step in the right direction. They claimed from the beginning that they would not hold negotiations with the PLO, although they knew that this delegation fully represented the PLO in terms of appointment, guidance, leadership, and responsibility. They also knew from the beginning that I was the head of the Palestinian team to the peace conference and that it was I who was in charge of both the bilateral and multilateral talks. Now, they are dealing with facts and realities. If Israel continues this policy, I believe this march will produce positive results.

[Salamah] Brother Faysal al-Husayni: Brother Yasir 'Arafat described you, in a statement to our radio, as the actual head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, whether in the bilateral or the multilateral negotiations. What is the official name of your direct role within the framework of the negotiating delegation?

[Al-Husayni] I am the head of the Palestinian team to the peace conference which comprises the Palestinian delegation [to the bilateral talks], led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, and the delegation to the multilateral talks, led by Dr. Muhammad al-Hallaj. When it is necessary for me to be present in the meetings or at the table, I will be there and will play my role as the head of the entire team. However, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi remains the head of the delegation to the bilateral talks, and Dr. al-Hallaj is the head of the delegation to the multilateral talks.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Your participation in the negotiating delegation seems to be one of the initiatives the U.S. Administration spoke about to urge the Palestinian delegation to participate in the bilateral talks. Will the other initiatives, in your opinion, be enough to convince the Palestinians to take part despite the deportee issue?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I believe that the other initiatives are good ones, but we need to know more details about them so we can offer our people clear and coherent proposals and not mere promises.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. Faysal: Deportee spokesman 'Abdal-'Aziz al- Rantisi today said that despite the fact that you

are a Jerusalem resident, your participation in the delegation will not change anything the situation or the fact that he is opposed to the Palestinian delegation's participation in the negotiations. He even described this as high treason. How do you view this, and what do you say about the statement attributed to you by Israeli Army radio that you do not consider the immediate return of the deportees a precondition for the resumption of the negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Regarding the issue of the deportees, the deportation, and the immediate repatriation, we can say that we are not waging the battle only for some deportees. Rather, we are talking about deportees and deportation in general. There are 1,200 deportees, who have been deported since 1967 and who continue to suffer from deppertation throughout these years. Of course this is the registered number. If you consider their families and relations, the number could be much larger than this figure. We are eager for our battles to include them, and that will be a beginning for the immediate return of the deportees who were deported in 1967 and those who are stranded in Marj al-Zuhur. We hope that at the end of a certain period and during the negotiating process, we will have made large steps toward returning all our deportees and not just some of them.

[Salamah] Brother Faysal al-Husayni: In the light of President Mubarak's initiative, or, rather, his mediation between the Palestinian leadership and the U.S. Administration, do you expect the deportee question to be resolved before the date set for the ninth round of talks on 20 April?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, what we have received thus far was good Egyptian impressions of the U.S. stands and Israeli readiness. We are holding talks and direct contacts with the Egyptians to understand the essence and details of these impression to be able to take the proper decision.

[Salamah] Brother Faysal al-Husayni: The preparations for resuming the bilateral talks coincide, as you well know, with growing Israeli repression in the occupied territories. Is it possible for the Palestinians in particular, and the Arabs in general, to decide to participate in the forthcoming round of bilateral talks in the light of this bloody escalation in the occupied territories?

[Al-Husayni] Sir, you know that usually during negotiations, and especially when the political process approaches a potential end, the repression directed by the occupier against those under occupation increases. We have seen this in Algeria, in Aden, and in Vietnam, where negotiations were being held as major action on the ground was continuing. We tell Israel that these negotiations and this political process may be different from previous ones in the sense that there should be only one option: Negotiations on a negotiating table. But, this must apply to both sides. We tell the Israelis if they wish this to be a political battle fought only on the negotiating table, then we are prepared for it. If they wish it to be a political battle on the negotiating table and in the field, we are prepared for that too. If they wish to use repression, we have an answer. I believe that the answer to their repression which they saw recently was sufficient to convince them that the other option is the better one. If they want the other option, we are ready. If they do not, we are prepared to deal with the other methods they insist on using.

[Salamah] Let us ask you another question, Brother Faysal al- Husayni. The bilateral talks have not yielded any fruit, as you know, and we have not seen any results yet. What are the prospects for these negotiations. It is said in Jerusalem that Faysal al- Husayni and Shim'on Peres meet on a weekly basis, and that the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli Government know about the outcome of these talks. Is this true? And, are you optimistic about the outcome of these talks as regards what the Palestinians hope to get through them?

[Al-Husayni] First, there are no arrangements for weekly or other meetings. But, I wish to say, without naming persons or confirming any of these reports, that we, as Palestinians, are not unaware of what the Israelis are doing behind the scenes. We know that there is an Israeli Government that comprises various parties, extremists and very extremists, moderates and more moderates. So, we, as Palestinians, have our own ways of maintaining a very good knowledge of developments inside the Israeli political arena. This is a necessary and important task and is conducted on all levels and at all times. This is an issue I wanted to make clear to you from that perspective.

Further on Remarks, Talks Status

TA1104091293 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] While a PLO majority against returning to the peace talks seemed certain a few weeks ago, optimism that the Palestinians would return to the talks prevailed last night in Jerusalem. Political elements said that the Palestinians have been conducting sophisticated diplomacy over the past few weeks: While seemingly objecting to the resumption of the talks, they extracted new concessions from the Americans and, through the United States, from Israel.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 11 April, in a page-3 report by Aharon Barne'a and Amnon Barzilay, adds: "Reports received in Jerusalem over the weekend indicate that the United States has approached France and England with a request to keep an open channel of communication with the PLO in Tunis, in an effort to persuade Yasir 'Arafat—even prior to the Arab foreign ministers' meeting on 15 April—to permit the Palestinian delegation to return to the peace talks."]

The elements stated that two controversial matters remain unresolved in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue: the Palestinian demand that the United States pressure Saudi Arabia to start financing the PLO again—the aid

was discontinued after the Gulf war—and simultaneously, to stop funneling funds to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]; and the number of "old-time deportees" Israel will allow to return after the negotiations resume. Israel has informed the United States that it will be ready to sanction the return of no more than 20 old-time deportees, while the Palestinians demand that the number be over 50.

The Palestinians have told the Americans that the PLO's financial status is desperate, and that the organization has even stopped paying the salaries of its activists. The Palestinians assert that the PLO may collapse in this situation, seriously harming the efforts to renew the political process.

Another Israeli gesture to be announced as soon as the Palestinians state their readiness to return to the talks is the consent to allow Faysal al-Husayni to join the Palestinian negotiating delegation. Last night, the prime minister's bureau remained silent on the issue, stating that "Israel has not been officially approached on this matter." Political elements pointed out, however, that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has already consented to the move, and that he will refrain from making a public statement until the Palestinians themselves agree to including al- Husayni in the negotiations.

After the Palestinians announce their return to the talks, Israel is also expected to announce the first results of the work of the committee reviewing Hamas deportees' dossiers. In addition, Israel has agreed to evince more flexibility in a number of issues related to substantive autonomy negotiations, including greater Palestinian control over state-owned land in the territories. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinians involved in the peace talks, the important point preventing the Palestinians from saying "yes" to the resumption of the peace talks is the absence of a public Israeli declaration against future deportation of Palestinians. [passage omitted]

"If Israel officially issues an explicit public statement that no more Palestinians from the territories will be deported in the future, we will announce at once that we are returning to the talks." This statement was made yesterday to DAVAR by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

'Urayqat further stated that the recent contacts with the United States have yielded nothing new. According to him, the Americans told the Palestinians that they can get nothing further beyond the general Israeli promises and beyond the Rabin-Christopher deal speaking of the gradual return of deportees. "The Americans said they have reached the limit of what Rabin was willing to give," 'Urayqat said. "The Israeli Government's statement that deportations are not a policy but that it reserves the right to take any step it deems appropriate does not satisfy us, and it is no guarantee that there will be no more deportations. This has always been the official stand, and yet deportations have been carried out."

Since al-Husayni's telephone conversation with IDF Radio yesterday created the impression that the Palestinians had decided to return to the peace talks, al-Husayni talked to Palestinian delegation members in Jerusalem and clarified that his remarks had been misinterpreted, because the issue has not been decided definitively.

In an interview appearing in AL-QUDS this morning, al-Husayni says that the deportations are a central issue and still an obstacle impeding a definitive Palestinian decision regarding their return to the talks. According to him, the Palestinians insist on two demands: a public Israeli declaration that there will be no more deportations, and Israeli consent to revoke the permanent deportee status of all those deported since 1967.

Al-Husayni states, however, that the Palestinians do not pose the demand that all the deportees be returned at once, prior to the talks, as a condition for returning to the talks. The Palestinians will accept a phased plan, provided there is an official Israeli declaration abrogating the deportation policy.

I do not agree that the bilateral talks have yielded nothing so far. This depends on the viewpoint. If the question is whether we have moved from square one to square two in the political arena, the answer might be no. We have not moved to square two, and consequently nothing has been achieved. However, if the question is whether we have moved within square one from its beginning to its end, I believe that we have moved.

At the beginning, we held negotiations with Shamir, who proposed ideological stands and who called the occupied territory Judaea and Samaria, the land of Greater Israel, and a gift from God to the Jewish people. After Shamir's downfall, we are now holding negotiations with Rabin, who claims a right to this land but from a security perspective, not from a religious or ideological perspective. Consequently, this matter could be discussed. They themselves began to change their course of discussion and to refer to the occupied land as territories instead of Judaea and Samaria. This kind of move is getting closer to the logic of Resolution 242 and departing from the Zionist Jewish ideology which Shamir was trying to impose.

Shamir insisted on holding the negotiations only between the residents of the occupied territory and Israel to rule out the possibility of holding negotiations with the Palestinian people. We imposed the presence of Palestinians from outside the occupied territory in the multilateral talks. Now, there is a place [in the bilateral talks] for the Palestinians from Jerusalem. Also, there will be a place for the Palestinians from Jerusalem in the multilaterals. We, therefore, achieved steps toward changing this formula so that the negotiators will be

representatives of the Palestinian people from the political and theoretical perspective, as well as from the practical viewpoint.

In addition, the other topic which was raised during the negotiation was: What is the nature of this transitional government? Is it a government that will only run municipal services, as sought by Shamir and will the elections be of municipal nature, and consequently, a local rule? Or, will the elections be political as now proposed, and consequently, have a national characteristic? In this case, we are waging a long battle with Rabin to define the meaning of the political elections, their role, and their relationship with the land. I believe that we also achieved progress here and there. However, we still say that we have achieved this progress within square one and have not yet moved to square two. However, there are indications about the possibility of achieving this too.

[Salamah] What is the value of this progress with regard to the Palestinian constants on the strategy of the issue of state, Mr. Faysal al-Husayni?

[Al-Husayni] The value of this is that when the negotiator represents all the Palestinian people this means that we are not searching for a solution to the problem of the residents of the occupied territory, but we are searching for a solution to the problem of the Palestinian people wherever they are. This is an essential point which we should not ignore at all.

The other thing is that we are talking about an occupied territory in accordance with 242. Shamir's view was that this is a territory owned by Israel and one in which there is an Arab minority. Rabin now is talking about it as a disputed land.

However, at the end there will be no progress without Israeli admission that this is an occupied territory and that the authority of the interim government will be over all this occupied territory. Hence, we begin the practical step toward laying down the basis to establish the Palestinian state.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. Faysal, U.S. President Bill Clinton stressed the need that any peace agreement should take into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Some observers dwelt on the word "legitimate" which came in the U.S. president's speech. Do you have any special assessment of this word uttered by the U.S. President?

[Al-Husayni] It came as follows: The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This is a development for the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. At the beginning they spoke about the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Then, they spoke about the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. Now, they are talking about the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. I believe that they getting closer to the Palestinian perspective although it has not fully converged with the Palestinian viewpoint. However, we look at this positively as it represents steps in the right direction.

[Salamah] We thank Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni for this interview with Radio Monte Carlo.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

U.S. Said 'Unable or Unwilling' To Pressure Israel

LD0904222893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the important political events in the last few days included Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's talks in Washington and the continuing closure of the occupied territories for the 10th day running despite the stalemate [words indistinct]. All this points to one fact, namely that the United States either is unable or unwilling to apply sufficient pressure on Israel to make it change its position on the outstanding issues relating to the Palestinian-Israeli issue to create the climate which would make it possible for the Palestinian side to change its stand on taking part in the negotiations.

The outcome of the visit of the Egyptian president has been an American undertaking to bless the efforts to be made by Mubarak with the Israeli side before the date fixed for the resumption of the negotiations.

Afterward there has been talk going round about an Egyptian- Israeli summit. The only thing though was the two sides disagreed about the time and the place of holding it. However, the thing that is being noticed about this summit is that the Israeli tone concerning it was not comforting. If anything it is a summit with conditions. [passage indistinct]

As for the suffering endured by the population in the occupied areas it is totally not in favor of the cause of the peace. There are thousands of families who have lost the sources of their livelihood. This tends to spark off the feelings of frustration and despair and one cannot predict the consequences of these feelings.

Israel is behaving these days from the premise of its trust in infinite American support—the support which undermined the international efforts to implement resolution 799 and shrouded the issue of the deportees with a media black-out and caused the American Administration to address Israel via the Egyptian mediation as if America was unable or unwilling to hold direct talks with the Israeli Government.

Israeli pride in U.S. support for Israel led to an indifferent attitude to the stands of the Arab sides which have been taking part in the negotiations and particularly the Palestinian side on whose shoulders the question of resuming or not resuming the negotiations rests. However, the issue of realizing peace has been and will always remain one of the strategic issues of the Middle East

area. This historic opportunity to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and solving the Palestinian issue justly and honorably, must not be missed.

It is an historic opportunity not only for the Palestinians but to all the sides taking part including Israel which must comply with the UN Security Council resolutions and above all and must urgently comply with resolution 799 which provides the minimum in the possibility to bring to a conclusion the peace process in the truest meaning of the word "peace."

'Arafat Rejects Iranian 'Intervention' via Hamas

NC1004062993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he is not prepared to tolerate Iranian intervention in Palestinian affairs through the Palestinian organization Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He added that the Palestinian people reject any Arab custodianship, let alone a Persian one.

In an interview to be published in the 10 April issue of AL-AHRAM, 'Arafat said he had told Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that he who rejected jihad at the Islamic Conference Organization summit in Dakar had no right to speak about jihad in Palestine.

Asked what stand the Arabs should take toward Iran, which is working against the Arab central cause, 'Arafat said: No one can put pressure on us. We know our issue best and Palestine cannot be liberated by words or one-upmanship.

'Arafat added: I do not prevent the Iranian army from entering Tel Aviv. I do not prevent its missiles from reaching Tel Aviv. Therefore, I ask them not to attempt to outdo us. 'Arafat said: Iran wants to have a share of the Palestinian pie. Palestine for many is a political plum because al-Aqsa Mosque is there and Jesus Christ was born there.

'Arafat Receives Mubarak Message, Comments

NC0904163093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, 9 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has received a message from President Husni Mubarak dealing with the outcome of his visits to the United States, Britain, France, and Germany. The message was conveyed by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, during his meeting with 'Arafat today.

'Arafat and al-Baz held a closed meeting for one hour. They discussed and assessed the outcome of President Mubarak's U.S. and European tour and his discussions with the U.S. Administration concerning the issue of deportees and the ongoing efforts to resume the peace process.

The Palestinian president told the MENA correspondent in Tunis that the meeting was useful, noting that al-Baz has come as an envoy of President Mubarak following his successful tour and talks with the new U.S. Administration and President Clinton both regarding the Middle East situation and the current negotiations in the region.

In his statement, 'Arafat said that President Mubarak's message is positive and will greatly contribute to eliminating the obstacles hindering the resumption of the peace negotiations. 'Arafat said that the Palestinian stand on whether to participate or not in the upcoming round of peace negotiations will be determined only after his meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo during the next few days.

The Palestinian president pointed out that the Palestinian leadership will make its decision in light of the outcome of Mubarak's tour and in light of the PLO's contacts with the other parties.

'Arafat said that the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers, scheduled to be held in Damascus within the next few days, will discuss the Arab participation in the next round of peace negotiations, slated to be held in Washington.

'Arafat said that he has received an invitation from President Mubarak to visit Cairo. He added that he will make the visit within the next few days.

'Arafat Address on Intifadah's 65th Month

LD0904211093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Address by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Palestinians in the occupied territories and in the diaspora, marking the intifadah's 65th month—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] O masses of the heroic popular intifadah. O heroes of the legendary and epic resistance. O makers of the dawn of freedom and independence. O mobilized [murabit] men in steadfast southern Lebanon. O steadfast people in all positions in the homeland, in exile, and in the diaspora. [passage omitted]

Sisters and brothers, the practices of Israeli terrorism and the daily crimes of its forces against our masses of our people have reached a very dangerous proportions. On one hand they consecrate a challenge to legitimacy and the international community as well as a violation of charters and agreements and, on the other hand, they deal more deadly blows to any move aiming at salvaging the stalled peace process. Moreover, they are taking the whole region toward more explosive situations. And here we should be absolutely clear that we categorically reject that anyone or any side should deny us our fundamental

and legitimate right to defend ourselves and to face up to Israeli terrorism our right to struggle to carry out jihad for our freedom and independence.

Furthermore, we reject and condemn any attempt to equate our people's self defense with the [Israeli] massacres, repression, injustice, blockade and famishing, and between its struggle for its freedom and its resistance against occupation and between the Israeli terrorism and the daily Israeli crimes, foremost of which is the occupation itself. [passage omitted]

O brothers and beloved ones. We would like to reiterate that neutrality is no longer tolerable and that silence is no longer acceptable. The inability of the international community to provide immediate and suitable protection to the Palestinian people means that the occupation has a free hand to commit more crimes against our masses, our children, our women and our Islamic and Christian sanctities. [passage omitted]

Thus, we would to like to reaffirm our demand for an immediate move to protect [our people]. Here, we would like to reiterate clearly that the United States should shoulder the main responsibility in this respect given its unlimited support for the Israel Government, supporot that has given the latter cover and encouragement to continue its violation of the Palestinian citizen's rights and hinder the UN Security Council from carrying out its duties and responsibilities and bar the implementation of its resolutions, and has dealt a blow to its credibility, reaffirming the double standard policy. [passage omitted].

We have followed with interest and appreciation the American Administration's recent signals concering its interest in the subject of human rights and, we would to see such an interest and concern to be transformed into reality when it comes to the rights of the Palestinian citizen in our occupied territories. Anything else would only lead to one conclusion: The inability of the United States to play the role of honest broker and thereby its inability to compel all parties [to the peace talks] to respect the terms of reference of the initiative which started the peace process.

O sons of our brave people! The Palestinian people has over the last few days engaged in an assessment of developments in our homeland, the solid resistence of our masses and the brilliant steadfastness of our people, in addition to the outcome of the efforts aimed at the resumption of the peace talks. And this was the culmination of our continuing contacts with the various states and sides. At a time when the meetings of the leadership have been left open, to deal with the various facts and to continue the contacts, there has been an affirmation and underscoring of the fact that at a time when it [the Palestinian leadership] stressed attachment and concern for the peace process, we also stress the need to provide the prerequisites for the resumption of the negotiations and the guarantees for their success.

The attempt to exclude Jerusalem, Jerusalem the sacred cause, citizens and holy places, from the negotiations table constitutes one of the most prominent obstacles to the resumption of the negotiations. Also the continuation of the Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights and the evasion in implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy pertaining to the return of the deportees to their homeland, foremost among them resolutions 799, 726 and 681, on top of the renewal of the siege, the Israeli war of starvation and the campaign to destroy our national institutions and the infrastructure of our society and economy, constitutes a major fundamental obstacle preventing the resumption of the peace negotiations.

Here we point out with pride, O brothers, to the advance level of the process of unifying the vision and the stance on the part of the Arab sides to the peace process. The unity of this stance has boosted our demands and constitutes a guarantee for the stymieing of the attempts at splintering the Arab front and taking on its sides one by one, and reiterates the Arab consensus on the central position of the Palestinian cause as the essence of the comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

In this context we point to our contacts with the other sponsor, Russia, and to our contacts with Europe, the nonaligned, Islamic and African countries, China, Japan and all the friends in the world.

O masses of the blessed intifadah. O sons of our heroic people everywhere! O sons of our Arab nation! When our people stressed through its legislative and executive bodies the peace option, this stemmed from a belief and conviction. This did not stem from a weakness or inability, nor was it maneuvering. Developments, as all bear witness, have proved the sincerity of our intent and endeavor for the achievement of peace. They also proved at the same time that the other side lacks any similar serious intentions; rather they proved that all its effort has been concentrated on aborting the march toward peace and the further tightening of the iron fist.

Our people, which is continuing its intifadah and escalating its resistance of the fascist occupation, renews at the same time, from a position of confidence and ability, its attachment to the peace option, and calls on the Israeli leadership to show courage and ability, absorb the lessons of history and realities, and rise to the level of the historic moment and seriously move to adopt the peace option and make peace. Our people, which is making with unique heroism the epic of the intifadah and stubborn resistance, has shown, shows and reiterates its ability and eagerness to make peace and face its big challenge. [passage omitted]

The development of events and the intensification of the conflict indicates that it is no longer possible for the Israeli leadership to postpone the hour of truth and the hour of making the decision. It either adopts the peace option, thus responding to the logic of history and the course of events in our world, and this is what we are

urging to do, or continue evasion of the issue, escalation of violence and expansion which inflicts disaster on all sides, sets the region ablaze and pushes it to the vortex of Balkanization.

O our heroes, detainees inside the prisons of forces of occupation! O our valiant injured! O heroes, those who safeguard our freedom and independence; O brave ones, and architects of the coming dawn of our Palestine. O every child, man and woman among our militant people; glory is your reward as you face up to the flames of occupation, its oppression and crimes. [passage omitted].

O our steadfast and hard studious workers; our steadfast and militant prisoners, O our families in all areas of revolution and Jihad. These days, the forces of occupation are depriving you of your work; using filthy and satanic schemes, to starve you and starve your children, to bring you to your knees and undermine your people. However, as have always known about you, you remain patient, faithful and hard-working; through your starvation you are stronger than any force that is used by your enemy and mightier than all their schemes, plots, oppression and tyranny. [passage omitted]

You my brothers in southern Lebanon, you my steadfast brothers in southern Lebanon, I salute you; glory and pride are for you. We and you have a date for the coming inevitable victory. Our promise remains the same promise; our pledge remains the very same pledge. Together, united we go on until Jerusalem is liberated, God's willing, and until a child from our country raises the flag of Palestine on Jerusalemn, its walls, churches and minarets. O our brave masses, O heroes of the valiant intifadah; O our heroes and militants in all areas of revolutions; our students, farmers, workers, academics, traders, cadres, committee of good deeds and reforms; committees of labor and cadres, our striking forces and new generals who are confronting the usurping forces of occupation; our prisoners and detainees [words indistinct], our valiant injured ones who are sacrificing their wounds for the sake of victory; our national steadfastness and unity are being consolidated. [passage omitted]

It is impossible to seal off our people, it is impossible to establish a real and lasting peace without the realization and the establishment of the firm and national Palestinian rights and the edification of our Palestinian independent state whose capital would be Holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Glory to our brave men, glory to the heroes of the intifadah and resistance inside the homeland, exiles and diaspora. Dawn is inevitably upon us; victory will be achieved [last sentence repeated three times]. May the revolution continue until victory is achieved. Your brother, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Held in Bangladesh 10-11 Apr

Agenda, Security Measures Detailed

BK0904163293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] All preparations have been finalized to hold the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Dhaka beginning tomorrow. The two-day summit brings together heads of state and government of seven South Asian nations for formal and bilateral talks and decisions on further cooperation to improve the standard of living of 100 crore people of the region. The presidents—Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka and Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan, and four prime ministers—Girija Prasad Koirala of Nepal, P.V. Narasimha Rao of India, and Mohammad Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, besides Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh, are to take part. Begum Zia takes over the chairmanship of SAARC from the outgoing chairman, President Premadasa.

Meanwhile, heads of state and government of three other countries arrived in Dhaka today. They are Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan. On arrival, the Nepalese prime minister expressed the hope that the coming SAARC summit would be a great success. He said SAARC is the new organization and will take some time to mature. The Maldives president said Dhaka summit bears special significance since it was born in this place. We will discuss various issues for the welfare of the people of this region. He lauded Bangladesh's role in promoting the objectives of the SAARC. The Bhutanese king expressed the hope that concrete discussions will take place at the summit for setting up the South Asian Development Fund and there would be a consensus on the proposals for South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement for the benefits of the people of this region. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is due to arrive in Dhaka tonight while Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao will be arriving tomorrow morning. Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa arrived in Dhaka last night.

Our representative says that Dhaka summit which has been dubbed as Dhaka-2 will begin another cycle of fresh annual summits of seven South Asian nations. It was in 1985 that SAARC was launched in Bangladesh capital following several years of deliberations on an idea mooted by Shahid President Ziaur Rahman in 1980. It is his wife, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is to take over the chairmanship of SAARC for the current year.

Our representative adds maximum security arrangements have been taken by Bangladesh to ensure safety of the visiting SAARC leaders during their two-day summit. Three thousand security personnel have been deployed in the capital for this purpose. The capital city

is wearing festive look with decorations and buntings. National flags of seven SAARC countries are being hoisted at important points.

Radio Bangladesh is to relay and Bangladesh Television telecast live inaugural and closing sessions of the SAARC summit. Separate honor guards will be given to the visiting heads of state and government during the pre-inaugural ceremony at the International Conference Center premises in Dhaka tomorrow morning. The summit goes under way with the Sri Lankan president presenting a report on regional cooperation and formally proposing the election of Bangladesh prime minister as chairman for the new term. Following the election, Begum Zia and leaders of member-states will address the session. After the inaugural session of the summit, the SAARC leaders will go on a retreat aboard the river boat Ostrich from Meghna Ghat. They will also attend a banquet to be hosted by Begum Zia in the evening. On the second day of the summit on Sunday, the morning hours will be kept open for bilateral talks between the leaders. They are scheduled to call on President Abdul Rahman Biswas who will host a luncheon for them which will be followed by a cultural show. The concluding session of the summit is scheduled for Sunday afternoon which would be followed by a news conference to be addressed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as the new chairman of SAARC. A declaration to be known as Dhaka Declaration would be issued at the end of the two-day summit, highlighting the aims of the regional forum. The main thrust will be on poverty alleviation and increased economic cooperation among the member-states.

Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this evening, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said the SAARC foreign ministers held another informal meeting and agreed on the text of the draft Dhaka Declaration excepting a couple of points which will be placed to the heads of state and government to decide upon. Replying to a question, he said launching of South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement—SAPTA—and the date of the next summit will be decided by SAARC heads of state and government. The foreign secretary said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia this evening received the Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk.

Pakistan's Sharif on Meeting

BK1004100393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The two-day summit conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, begins in Dhaka today. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif arrived in Dhaka last night with a Pakistani delegation to attend the summit. Before the inauguration of the summit conference at the International Conference Center, a formal welcome cermony will be held to give a guard of honor to the heads of state and government attending the summit. The leaders of the SAARC member states will hold bilateral meetings tomorrow.

Speaking to newsmen at Zia International Airport in Dhaka last night, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan has sincere a desire to play a leading role in making SAARC an effective organization. He said he is glad to note that this year the SAARC summit is taking place in Dhaka where the organization came into being. Although the summit was postponed twice, this time all the leaders of the member states are participating. He expressed the hope that during the seventh summit, meaningful talks will be held. He said bilateral issues cannot be raised at the summit. However, in their separate meetings, the leaders of the member states can hold talks on bilateral and other issues, for which there will definitely be an opportunity. He said during his stay he will hold fruitful talks with Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders.

Pakistan Refuses To Sign Trade Accord

BK1004035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit begins in Dhaka today. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, is schedule to arrive in the Bangladesh capital shortly. The Sri Lankan, Mr. Premadasa; President Abdul Gayoom of Maldives; the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala; the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif; and the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, have already arrived in Dhaka.

The main focus of the summit will be on a ten-year action plan to eradicate poverty in the region and forge South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement, SAPTA.

Agency reports say that the adoption of trade accord on SAPTA ran into uncertainity with Pakistan refusing to sign the accord. The Standing Committee tried to hammer out a compromise, but eventually the issue has been left for the heads of state and government. Reports emanating from Dhaka say consensus is still eluding the SAARC Council of Ministers on the Draft Declaration following differences on certain issues including SAPTA.

Talking to newspersons, the Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr. Reaz Rahman, said substantial progress has been made in the preparation of the Draft Declaration but there are some points which are yet to be resolved. He said the differences on SAPTA is with regard to the procedures to be adopted for proper implementation.

The Bangladesh authorities have made elaborate security arrangements for the summit. The country's airport, the venue of the summit, and the hotels where the leaders are put up, and other vantage has been declared as top secret zones.

Zia Gives Keynote Addresses

BK1004142193 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0432 GMT 10 Apr 93

["Keynote" address by Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the inaugural session of the seventh SAARC, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, summit in Dhaka on 10 April—live]

[Text] Your Majesty, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Seven years ago, Bangladesh had the proud privilege of hosting the first SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. Seven eventful years have passed since then. Today, we are equally proud to have you in our midst for our seventh summit. Your presence here is a source of immense pleasure and honor for the people of Bangladesh. They join me in extending to you a most warm and cordial welcome.

We are all aware of the sad events that led to the postponement of our seventh summit twice. We should, however, not be detracted by this happening. A common vision for a better future and our collective wisdom, I am confident, will help us in moving forward. By closing ranks, the leaders of the South Asia can strengthen tolerance and promote harmony in our region.

As we greet you, it is my very pleasant responsibility to extend a special welcome to His Excellency President Premadasa. [applause] As our chairman for the last one year, he has guided our association with wisdom, dedication, and extraordinary skill. His many concrete initiatives have significantly enriched our agenda for cooperation. We are all grateful to him.

I should also like to pay our rich tributes to Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, the secretary general of SAARC. He has already displayed a very high standard of performance. This augurs particularly well for the future of our association.

Your Majesty, Excellencies! Our seventh summit is taking place at a vital juncture of time and history. Strong winds of change are blowing across our planet. The world around us is undergoing a transition of unprecedented scope and rapidity. Most of the recent changes are essentially positive in their direction and thrust. There is no more a polarized world dipped in useless conflicts which posed a serious threat to peace. The end of the cold war has finally removed many bottlenecks in our quest for peace. The upsurge of democratic spirit has created a new atmosphere of hope. We have a new opportunity to harness people's power. This new situation is not, however, without its dark spots. There are still many unknown factors casting a shadow on the prospects for peace. Only recently, international relations have witnessed extreme nationalism, racial and ethnic violence, and wanton callousness in dealing with human misery. We have seen how they can damage the fabric of peace. The unadequate economic crisis in the developing world remains a source of major concern [sentence as heard]. Disparity and negative trends in the world economy are still undermining peace and stability. New constraints and conditionalities impede development cooperation. This relates to standards, [words indistinct] structural adjustment measures, environmental criteria, and scrutiny of military intentions and preparations.

We are not opposed to the desirable changes in principle, but, surely there is a need for a flexible rather than a rigid attitude toward the Third World in general, and South Asia in particular. The pressing task before the world community is to forge a new, more focused one agenda to promote peace, justice, social and economic progress. In short, a more equitable world order. Two years from now, the United Nations will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The shape and significance of the world agenda is already assuming substance. The first ever summit of Security Council members held in January 1992 concentrated on agenda for peace.

The historic 10th NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit in Jakarta injected vital inputs in this direction. World summits are being held or are envisaged on such important subjects, subjects such as the rights for children, narcotic drug, environment and development, human rights, population, women, and social issues. At the core of this global agenda is the dominant theme to comprehensively deal with economic, social, evironmental, and political dimensions of human development. All of us in SAARC must be closely associated with this crucial process. Surely, this unique combination of promise and (?balance) of our time, of hope and uncertainity, hold out important policy implications. Other regions of the world, with very few exceptions, are trying to adjust to this complex situation. They intend to do so by coming closer by uniting their strengths. We in South Asia must also do the same. We must also be able to forge an effective, regional response to our many common challenges. We must formulate a truly viable agenda to improve the living standard of our people.

When Shaheed [martyr] President Zia first dreamt of SAARC, he was confident of the immense potential of our collective strength. He envisioned a South Asia where we could build on our commonality. His commitment to promote welfare of the common men and women in South Asia was firm. He hoped to (?create) an environemnt of peace and larger freedom for all our people. We have come a long way in translating Shaheed Zia's dream into a reality.

Over the last few years we have set ourselves on a welcome course of cooperation strengthened by each one of our summits. We must carry forward this process even further. We have now reached a point where our past gains must be consolidated. More importantly, we must give another decisive forward push to our cooperative endeavor. Our seventh summit is a welcome opportunity to seriously address this imperative. This, I am sure, we shall do with tangible impact on our future cooperation.

Your Majesty, Excellencies! When we set up SAARC, we made a collective commitment. We entered into a solemn pledge to work together to promote the welfare of our people. We did so knowing well that it is only by working together and not by mutual acrimony that we can prosper. We knew that this was the only way for us to ensure peace, progress, and stabilty in our region. We must rededicate ourselves to work for the welfare of our people. We must harness the positive inner impulses of our region to fulfill our shared aspirations. During the last few years, our achievements have been many. From a mere vision we have largely succeeded in giving regional cooperation in South Asia an institutional shape. We now know our common challenges better. A critical knowledge gap no longer separates us. Our cooperation has developed along many new and important dimensions. We cannot, however, deny that some of our activities were defused and had limited impact. We are yet to touch the life of our common people whose welfare is our foremost objective. Our priorities for the future are very clear. Endemic poverty of our people constitutes a major challenge for all our countries. We must form a strong coalition against this complex and difficult challenge. We must continue efforts at all levels to eradicate poverty in the shortest possible time. This is not an easy task but it must command all our energies, for without appreciable success in this key area, our goal to enhance the well- being of our people will always remain a distant hope. In Colombo, we decided to form an independent commission on poverty alleviation. We commend the commission's work. We must seriously examine its findings and recommendations. We must now seek comprehensive action program to take up in the next phase. Increasing our productive capacity and empowerment of our poor to have better access is important. The latent power of our people must be harnessed to change their destiny. We are fully convinced that the poor are deficient. There must also be adequate safety nets for vulnerable groups, especially children and women, their needs for domestic [word indistinct]. Efforts must be made to create organizations, institutions, and legal framework with an inbuilt bias for the poor. A proper direction with definite poverty alleviation goal must continue to animate all our development objectives. We must take bold and imaginative steps to implement the Dal-Bhat or the basic needs approach, I proposed earlier. Our countries must also gradually move towards making appreciable progress in hardcore economic areas. Economic cooperation can only be ignored by our countries to our detriment. Meaningful cooperation in the field lies at the very heart of what we need at the moment.

In Colombo, we decided to consider the proposal for the establishment of a South Asian Development Fund. Bangladesh will eagerly and constructively participate in all our common actions and on this and other related subjects.

Happily, we have made a good progress in working details of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement, SAPTA. It now remains for us to reach an agreement on this important issue. I must, however, underscore one particular point here. Given the differences of size, level, and of development, and (?triggering) of diversification in our countries, this is an ambitious goal to achieve. We must approach this goal cautiously. We must take all our decisions on this important matter—on the clearness of missions, of mutual interests, and benefits of all our countries, particularly the weakest among us. We must also make cautious efforts to promote greater complementarities among our economies by carefully implementing selective steps.

The third area in which we must continue our efforts is the conservation of environment. The initiative for halting environmental damage must no doubt lie in the first place at the national level. However, efforts are also needed at the regional level. SAARC has completed a number of important targets on environment and natural disasters. A strong partnership must now be forged among our governments and people to go ahead with concrete actions in these areas. We must examine the recommendations of the various studies completed in these areas and seek the most appropriate and practical form of cooperation. Indeed, cooperation in this critical field must become the cornerstone of SAARC activities.

Over the years, SAARC has also been a useful instrument in promoting cooperation in the ITA [expansion unknown] related activities. Efforts have also continued for promotion of people to people contact. Only recently, Bangladesh had the privilege to host the second meeting of the secretaries general of the SAARC parliament. We also actively participated in the recently held SAARC ministerial level meeting on children. Bangladesh is joining hands with other South Asian countries to celebrate 1993 as the SAARC Year Of Disabled Persons. We are also looking forward to further consolidating our action program on women and children. In South Asia, progress in these areas has been considerable. However, further efforts are necessary to widen their outreach and deepen their impact. We would be happy to join our SAARC partners in strengthening joint initiatives in these areas. Cultural dimension of SAARC activities and our collective efforts in education, science, and technology are of paramount importance. Joint cultural activities can animate our regional cooperation and may help in overcoming indifference, alienation and discord. Our present programs in these areas must now be followed up with other creative steps. Recently, the world has made gigantic strides in human resources development, education, science and technology. We must also not fail to pull our rich experience and existing capacities to achieve progress in this vital direction. We must ensure that we are not bypassed by the ongoing educational and technological revolution now transforming the world.

The conditions for our success in all these areas, Your Majesty and Excellencies, remain largely where we have always been. We must decisively, precisely define the workable mandate for each field of our cooperation. SAARC must avoid actions with limited value or field. It

should aim at more efficient execution of its various programs and projects. Our activities should be target-oriented, focused and executed in a precise time frame. As a result of serious thoughts given to this imperative, we have now a new and useful set of guidelines to work with. Bangladesh is pledegd to strongly support the new guidelines. We are also open to any new suggestion that might help us move in this positive direction.

I would here like to underscore one other point, important point. We should not allow any gap to develop between our bilateral relations and our many initiatives to promote regional cooperation. We must frankly recognize that persistence of contentious bilateral irritants and problems often impact negatively on our efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in South Asia. Our countries must resolve them in a spirit of goodwill and respect for each other. This will surely add to the promotion of the peace, harmony and progress in our region.

Your Majesty, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. The tasks ahead of us are formidable. This should not however weaken our resolve to address them seriously, consistently, and in a sustained manner. We share common aspirations for our people. We must continue to strive together for our economic and social problems, for the deepening of SAARC consciousness. We have laid a solid foundation to achieve the goals. It took us great courage and vision to do so. It is now for us to make South Asian cooperation a living reality. For all our teeming millions, we must at this point act decisively to make SAARC a true vehicle of peace, progress and stability in our region. The seventh SAARC summit, I am convinced, will enable us to move surely and steadily toward this objective. Thank you. [applause].

India's Rao Speaks

BK1004142093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0518 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's address to the inaugural session of the seventh South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in Dhaka—live]

[Text] Madam chairperson, your majesty, presidents and prime ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: I am delighted to be here in the historic city of Dhaka for this seventh summit meeting of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], may I take this opportunity, madam chairperson, to extend our felicitations to you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this organization. At this point, I am reminded of my illustrious predecessor and leader, late Shri [Mister] Rajiv Gandhi, who was here to herald the SAARC. He had great faith in the future of SAARC. We have inherited that faith in full measure. This session is of particular significance. Our gathering again in Dhaka today signifies the completion of one cycle of our meetings. It is here that the SAARC was inaugurated on 7 December 1985. Your assuming the chairmanship of this movement at this juncture, is a tribute to the memory to your late husband President Ziaur Rahman, who was the originator of the idea of cooperation among the SAARC countries. We have assembled here not only in the shared faith which made us come together in this organization, but also in shared purposiveness for cooperation based on our experience and working together for the last seven years. Our attempts to come together in the cultural, scientific, economic, and commercial fields and a full cycle of summits that we have completed provide the basis for a new beginning. The fusion of our shared faith and common interest, which brought the movement into being, must be synergized with the experience of our working together in the last seven years and with the changes that have taken place in our outlook in keeping with the profound changes in the world around us. I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution which President Premadasa made to the movement as chairman of the SAARC. We appreciate the deep interest that he showed in discharging the high responsibility in relation to the SAARC and the new initiatives he took in the interest of the people of the region. I would like to place on record our appreciation and gratitude for the thoughful and active leadership which he provided to our association.

Madam chairperson, qualitative changes have taken place in the world around us in the last few years. These have inevitably affected our region. All of us have to adjust to transform the equations in terms of economic influence, political and military power, and strategic perceptions which have emerged with the disappearance of superpower competition and monolithic ideological confrontations. The ramifications of these changes are affecting our existence and our future across the entire spectrum of issues, which are of common concern to us from the security to scientific and technological exploration, from nurturing democracy to sustaining developmental activities. The challenge is not only of meeting these concerns, but to fashion an international order firmly rooted in the ideals of democracy and based on the principles of justice and equality and aimed at ensuring the genuine well-being of the people of our region and the world at large. We are witness to an international situation subject to contradictory trends of centripetal and centrifugal forces at work at the same time.

While established political entitities and plural societies have disintegrated, there are emerging patterns of socio-economic integration between nascent states underpinned by a unilinear structuring of global economy. Our association must, therefore, evolve meaningful policy approaches to deal with the worldwide trends in regional cooperation—the economic groupings of trading blocks as witnessed in western Europe, North and South America, ASEAN, and Asia Pacific region. For economies like ours, particularly at a time when we have liberalized and adopted outward oriented policies, these trends have important implications. They may well present new trading and economic opportunities for us. Our collective economic strength and weight has a mega market of over 1 billion consumers and the pulling

together of our abundant and manifold talents, skills, and resources will alone enable us to be a serious player in the global economy. Hence, the new beginning we must make in the coming years is to focus our energies—political and social—on economic development.

Contemporary history tells us that economic development in all its aspects is among the best cures for sociopolitical ills. We must make a renewed effort to break down the trade barriers between our countries and jettison the irrational past which created and sustained these barriers. A renewal must also mean building upon old and discovering new complementarities, opportunities, and avenues for economic collaboration among our seven countries. In this our interdependent world, let us begin by recognizing, reinforcing, and capitalizing our own regional interdependence. Let not our modest beginnings as a regional cooperation movement belie the great potential there is for cooperation. If we believe this, the difficulties we face should not deter us from moving purposively toward the exponential benefits for our peoples that genuine regional cooperation would certainly bring in.

Our economic well-being and developmental objectives are subject to the limitations of the disparities in the economic, technological and fiscal conditions that exist within our own region.

This lack of symmetry or cohesiveness is likely to be compounded by the inward looking and self-centered approach to commercial, financial, and technological issues which may be adopted by the more advanced and prosperous countries and regions. Our task, therefore, would be to structure a balanced relationship in these spheres with the industrially advanced countries in a manner in which we safeguard our collective interest at the same time making sincere efforts to move away from adversity competition or demanding attitudes which earlier characterized our interaction with the prosperous countries.

This summit marks the beginning of the second cycle of summit meetings of our region. This is a watershed that merits introspection. Introspection leads me to the conclusion that the content and range of cooperation within the SAARC region has been slower than what we wished for. The reasons are the (?sheer) democratic disparity among the member countries and inhibitions (?borne up) problems inherited from the past. We cannot wish these away. But, we certainly can abide by the stipulations in the SAARC charter by setting aside issues on which there are differences of opinion and issues which are essentially bilateral. We must purposively forge cooperation in areas of common interest and which are of more profound relevance to the well-being of our peoples. I am glad to note that this has been the orientation of our approach as we consolidate our association and determine its future course of action.

The past year has been charaterized by progress in dealing with substantive issues of interest to us. The sixth summit had given high priority to dealing with problems of poverty. The South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation consisting of eminent persons from our countries has completed its work. The in-depth study carried out by the commission has resulted in a comprehensive action-oriented report and recommendations. Our deliberations during this summit should result in decisions which would translate the recommendations into action programs and policies. Effective social mobilization of the establishment of appropriate national support mechanisms for poverty alleviation programs are essential. We endorse the view expressed by the commission in its report that governments have a central and catalytic role in undertaking this effort and in promoting human development with a multidimensional approach covering education, welfare of weaker sections of society, women and development, vocational training, and primary health care. This has to be achieved by democratic means in a liberalized socioeconomic environment.

We have embarked on a program of structuring the regional economic cooperation to build a dynamic South Asian community. Collectively, we are endowed with natural resources, skilled manpower, and the economic incentives of a mass market for nearly 1 billion people. Our needs, our products and the services that we orchestrate can be mutually complementary, if backed up by positive political will, mutual trust, and confidence. It is gratifying, therefore, to note that our consciousness about these positive factors has increased. We have commenced considering programs of cooperation in the importance spheres of regional trade, scientific and technological cooperation, enviornment, and the development of diverse sources of conventional and nonconventional energy. Experts from our region have met and submitted collective recommendations for consideration. I take particular satisfaction in noting the steps taken toward the establishment of the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement—SAPTA. India will join in the collective endeavor to implement the decisions in this regard within the timeframe stipulated to the extent that our talents and resources can benefit all the countries in the SAARC region. India places these at the disposal of the SAARC.

It is said in Indian scriptures that the measure of civilizational excellence of any given society is the manner in which women and children are treated in that society. SAARC as a regional mechanism over the last two years has acknowleged this norm. The ministerial resolution on children adopted by the SAARC conference in September last at Colombo and the decisions taken by the seventh meeting of the SAARC technical committee on women in development held at Male on 25 and 26 August 1992 affirm our collective commitment to ensure the welfare of women and children and to convert them into a dynamic contributive factor for the stability and prosperity of our region. We are happy that the structure and content of cooperation in SAARC is not being limited to the executive political sphere in terms of summit meetings and derivative activities based on the

decisions of these summits. Arrangements have been put in place for interaction between the presiding offices of our legislatures, between our jurists, and between leading figures in the sphere of academy and culture. Our desire to affirm the continuity and common heritage in terms of shared civilization and culture found expression in the first Asian cultural festival of SAARC countries held in India last October. We considered it an honor to host the festival and it is our hope that such festivals will not only continue in different countries of our region but that they would cover within their ambit of cultural, academic, journalistic, and science and technology activities.

In recent months, we have considered suggestions for the establishment of South Asian Development Fund to mobilize the global resources for development in our region. While mobilizing the surpluses available is a desirable effort, we must remain conscious that in the foreseeable future, we are subject to limitations of recessionary trends in the world economy and demands from and attention to other parts of the world away from our region. We are, therefore, faced with an atmosphere of competition where our political stability, our absorptive capacity, and our financial economic, and technological attractiveness would be the deciding factors leading external inputs for our development. A collective effort by all of us to meet these criteria is essential. This is the only way in which we can ensure positive external responses to our needs and aspirations.

Madam chairperson and distinguished friends, we hold our deliberations in a time of ferment and transition. A holistic or historical assessment may be that nations pass through these typhoons of crises time and again and that therefore detachment rather than involvement should be the proper attitude. The point, however, is that detachment in assessment and determining the terms of reference to meet challenges is valid and desirable. Equally, purposive activity is necessary for survival and change which are essential for continuity and progress. The scriptures and teachings of all the religions of our peoples tell us that detachment on the one hand and actions for the public weal on the other are not mutually exclusive but essentially complementary norms and that our efforts should be imbued with the faith and mutual confidence which brought us together at the inception of SAARC. It has been said that the essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds. It is deeds exceeding words which lend meaning to life. This should be the ideal which should guide us. Let us work together, make these lands and these peoples of ours endowed with plenty of prosperity, fragrant with the flowering of our efforts to meet the ideals and objectives which we adopted in the beautiful city of Dhaka seven years ago at the inception of SAARC. In the words of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who was present on that occasion and whose energy and vision helped charge the force that our association required itself, he said, and I quote, we have much to learn from each other and much to give. We have to proove a profound faith in peaceful coexistence. We are confident that we shared these beliefs with all our partners in the region, unquote. With these sentiments I am sure we all concur and on that note, madam chairperson, I take your leave and I thank you.

Next Summit Scheduled

BK1004161693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The heads of state and government attending the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit returned to Dhaka this evening from the retreat on board the (?boat) Ostrich near Meghna Ghat. Briefing newsmen in the capital this evening, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said the retreat was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere. All SAARC leaders held talks with each other and there has been substantial progress in all matters. The nature of the talks will be reflected in the Dhaka Declaration at the end of the summit tomorrow. The foreign secretary said the visiting SAARC leaders would lay a wreath at the mazar [tomb] of Shaheed [martyr] President Ziaur Rahman in Dhaka tomorrow morning as a special gesture of respect for his contributions to SAARC.

Mr. Reaz Rahman disclosed that the Council of Ministers has decided on the venue of the next SAARC summit. It will be held in India in 1994. The exact date will be decided by the SAARC chairperson following consultation with all the leaders of the member countries.

Leaders Agree on Preferential Trade

BK1104043093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The heads of state and government attending the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Dhaka have reached a consensus on setting up the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement, SAPTA. At their retreat on board M.V. Ostrich in the River Meghna, the leaders also cleared the Dhaka Declaration envisaging liberalized intra-region trade and an action plan for poverty alleviation. The SAPTA agreement is likely to be signed today.

The AIR [All India Radio] Dhaka correspondent, Shankar Das Gupta, reports that with the SAARC leaders agreeing upon concrete steps for economic cooperation the summit is expected to be a turning point in furthering the cause of regional cooperation. It was decided that the next summit, that is the eighth SAARC summit, will be held in India next year. The dates and venue of the summit will be decided after consultations by the SAARC chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, with member countries.

Speaking at a banquet in Dhaka last night, the prime minister [Rao] called upon the SAARC heads of state and government to demonstrate political will and wisdom to fulfill the SAARC objectives. Responding to a toast proposed by the SAARC chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, Mr. Narasimha Rao said compared to

other regional associations, the association has progressed at a satisfactory pace in the last two years. But it is for the SAARC heads to exert more in this respect. He said the choice of pace has to be on the SAARC countries and their heads only. Mr. Narasimha Rao, who was speaking on behalf of SAARC heads of state said they would be missing a historic opportunity for development of the region if they failed to display the political will needed in the circumstances. He said the region is beset with poverty, but is also blessed with potentials. The fact that SAARC performance is falling short of promise emphasize the need for laying a more solid foundation of cooperation in economic areas.

Earlier, in her banquet speech Begum Khaleda Zia said SAARC is a unique instrument at the disposal of South Asian countries to overcome constraints holding up development of the region. She said the people of Bangladesh have faith in the SAARC process and called upon the SAARC leaders to come up to the expectations of the people of the region from the association.

The prime minister is having bilateral meetings with other SAARC leaders this morning. Mr. Narasimha Rao is to meet the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. G.P. Koirala, and call on Begum Khaleda Zia, prime minister of the host country, Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh president, Mr. Abdur Rahman Biswas, is hosting a luncheon in honor of the visiting dignitaries today.

Pakistan's Sharif Addresses Summit

BK1004101093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0612 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's address to the inaugural session of the Seventh South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation Summit in Dhaka—live]

[Text] Madame Chairperson, Your Majesty, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen: It gives me immense pleasure to extend to your excellency, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, our warmest congratulations on assuming the leadership of the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] Summit. We are happy that the brotherly country of Bangladesh, which has made such a distinguished contribution to the evolution of SAARC, should once again guide our association at this important juncture. We are confident that under your wise and dynamic leadership, our association will take effective steps toward achieving its objectives. I would like also to pay special tributes to His Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa, chairman of the Sixth SAARC Summit, for his dedication and deep commitment toward achieving SAARC goals. His untiring efforts have given new impetus to our association. May I take this opportunity to express deep appreciation for the efficient performance of the SAARC secretariat under its dynamic secretary general, Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki.

Madame Chairperson, we are delighted that this summit despite two regrettable postponements is taking place in the historic city of Dhaka with its magnificent mosques, beautiful monuments, and gracious people that symbolized a rich culture. We have been deeply moved by the warm welcome given to us by the government and people of Bangladesh.

Madame Chairperson, this Seventh SAARC Summit heralds the commencement of the second cycle of our annual meetings. It is indeed befitting that the second chapter of the history of SAARC should commence from Dhaka. This is the testimony to the important role that Bangladesh has always played in strengthening regional cooperation among the nations of South Asia. We are also aware that SAARC owes its genesis to the vision and deep devotion to the cause of regional cooperation manifested by the late president Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh. It was natural that he should preside over the first SAARC summit in 1985 held here in Dhaka. We recognize the commitment and the resolute effort made by Bangladesh for the growth of our association.

Madame Chairperson, the Seventh SAARC Summit is being held at a profound change on the global scene. The international situation offers challenges and opportunity. We need particular determination and a commitment for regional cooperation in order to create a new and balanced framework for peace and progress. Peace, security, development and freedom must prevail in all states—regardless of their size and resources—for social and economic development. Freedom and self-determination of oppressed and subjugated peoples must be accepted as a collective responsibility of the entire international community. We should establish viable structures for regional peace and security based on the principles enshrined in the UN charter. Member states of SAARC must actively contribute to the process of a new, just, and lasting international order. Our commitment must be reflected in our own conduct in our relations with one another and in the positions adopted by us in international, political and economic forums. Within our own states and societies, we must protect the fundamental human rights of our nationals without discrimination. We must counter the menace of religious fanaticism and intolerance and seek to establish the supremacy of the rule of law and the principles of justice. In our relations with one another, we must respect the principles of sovereign equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Above all, we must devote our efforts to generate an atmosphere of understanding that would be conducive to the establishment of tension-free and cooperative ties among member states of our organization.

Over the years, SAARC has opened up new vistas of cooperation in several spheres of common interest. The establishment of the independent South Asian Commission for Poverty Alleviation proposed by President Premadasa is a significant step toward a regional cooperation. The commission's report stipulates a series of action- oriented guidelines for promoting socioeconomic

growth of our respective societies. We hope that a SAARC regional fund will help with identifying suitable projects for cooperation. The proposal of his majesty, the king of Bhutan, to establish a south Asian Development Fund, reflects the keen interest of the member states to expedite socioeconomic development in the region.

Madame Chairperson, trade and economic cooperation forms the bedrock for any organization for regional cooperation. SAARC has taken its first and important step toward achieving this goal through SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement]. We greatly welcome and endorse the objectives of SAPTA and will recommend that the framework document should be signed as soon as its schedules are completed.

SAARC has now galvanized regional cooperation in various fields ranging from postal communication to tourism, from agriculture to sports. People-to-people contacts will become easier through the introduction of a special travel document and through the interaction between parliamentary associations. SAARC needs also to reach out and establish linkages with international and regional associations that are prepared to cooperate with us. Above all, SAARC needs to conduct its business efficiently, basing itself on the recommendations for a more functional and business-like approach that we adopted at the last summit.

One of the major problems confronting our countries is the rapid growth in population. I have, therefore, pleasure in supporting the proposal for a ministerial conference on population planning. This would enable SAARC member countries to exchange views on population planning and development and to formulate a regional position for the international conference on population planning and development next year.

The current year 1993 will be observed as a year of disabled persons in member states of SAARC. Pakistan had the honor of preparing the regional plan of action for the SAARC year for disabled persons. We intend to launch meaningful schemes for promoting the welfare and well-being of disabled persons in Pakistan.

I firmly believe that our hopes for an even more effective role by SAARC in contributing to socioeconomic development and cultural renewal can best be fulfilled if we member states resolve all outstanding issues through negotiations and other peaceful methods stipulated in the UN charter. A tension-free and particularly conducive environment is essential for promoting effective and harmonious regional cooperation.

The Government of Pakistan remains firmly committed to the objectives enshrined in the SAARC charter. We are determined to make our full contribution to the strengthening of SAARC for the progress and well-being of the people of South Asia.

Thank you.

Leaders Urged To Ban Communal Politics

BK1104084593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] A resolution adopted at an all-party rally in Dhaka has appealed to the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] leaders to ban communal politics in their countries. The resolution said such politics poses a threat to the lives and properties of people, and imperils regional peace and stability.

The resolution was communicated to the heads of state and government of the SAARC countries yesterday.

Meanwhile, at a seminar in Dhaka eminent water experts and senior politicians of Bangladesh have appealed to India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh for a joint effort to develop the water resources of the Ganges and Brahmaputra basins. They also appealed to SAARC leaders to expedite the economic development of their countries.

Pakistan's Sharif Meets Leaders

BK1104120393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, held separate meetings with the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala; the Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia; the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa; the president of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom; and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan in Dhaka today. The Nepalese prime minister invited Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to visit Nepal. The prime minister accepted the invitation. The prime minister briefed his Nepalese counterpart about the situation in the occupied Kashmir and Pakistan's efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions. The Nepalese prime minister hoped that Pakistan and India would resolve all issues, including the Kashmir dispute, through negotiation.

During a meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Begum Khaleda Zia, the prime minister congratulated her on successful holding of the summit. They expressed satisfaction over the friendly and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

During the meeting with the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif discussed with him bilateral cooperation, especially in trade, railways and engineering goods. During his meeting with the president of Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, they expressed satisfaction over the existing relations between their two brotherly countries. At their meeting, the prime minister and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan underscored the importance of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] in developing friendly relations and cooperation among the member states.

Zia Meets With Sharif

BK1104143193 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation at all levels. An exclusive meeting between the two prime ministers were held when Begum Zia, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, chairperson, met Sharif at his hotel suite. Briefing newsmen, a government official said today that the Bangladeshi prime minister as the SAARC chairperson sought Pakistan's cooperation to make the regional organization strong and effective to ensure the prosperity of 1 billion people in the SAARC countries. Begum Zia thanked Pakistan for initiating the process of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh. Terming the process a significant event, the prime minister of Pakistan assured the Bangladeshi leader that the repatriation work will be completed without any hindrance. The two SAARC leaders agreed to expand economic cooperation between their two friendly countries.

Zia Meets With Rao

BK1104140593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has personally assured doing everything possible under the spirit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to resolve all bilateral issues between Bangladesh and India. He gave this assurance when Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh met Rao at the Hotel Sheraton today. This was stated by a senior official of the Prime Minister's Office while briefing newsmen on the two leaders' meeting.

During the meeting, Begum Zia categorically explained Bangladesh's stand on the Ganges water sharing issue and gave a detailed account to the Indian prime minister of the adverse affects on Bangladesh and its people due to India's unilateral withdrawal of water from the Ganges. Begum Zia said that unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India has tremendously damaged agriculture and fishing in Bangladesh, increased water salinity, and created a desert-like condition. The official said that Begum Zia invited the Indian prime minister to visit Hardinge Bridge area to witness the adverse affects of the Farraka Barrage. Begum Zia said that Ganges water flow during the current dry season has come down to 9,000 cusecs, while according to the latest agreement Bangladesh was supposed to get 27,600 cusecs of water. She informed the Indian prime minister that a national consensus has developed in Bangladesh to create pressure on India in order to secure Bangladesh's fair share of the Ganges water.

On the Ganges issue, the Indian prime minister assured that he will soon hold a dialogue with Bangladesh at the highest level with realistic proposals to seek a (?speedy) and durable solution to the issue. Other bilateral issues discussed during the meeting included [word indistinct], uprising of the Shanti Bahini in the hill tracts and demarcation of the maritime boundary. Expressing regret over the violation of the maritime boundary by India, Begum Zia said that India has called international tenders to explore oil and gas in the Bay of Bengal without demarcation of the maritime boundary. On the Chakma tribal issue, Rao reaffirmed his assurance that India will not support any sort of rebellion. The two leaders also discussed the trade gap between the two countries, and the Indian prime minister agreed to take steps to reduce the gap.

Summit Ends With Dhaka Declaration

BK1104130693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The seventh South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, summit has ended today with the Dhaka Declaration. Heads of state and government of the all SAARC countries attended the concluding session. Addressing the concluding session of the two-day summit at the International Conference Center this afternoon, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, current chairperson of the SAARC, expressed satisfaction over the positive outcome of the summit. She thanked the SAARC leaders for extending their active cooperation in the successful holding of the long-awaited summit. Later, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in his speech invited the SAARC leaders to attend the eighth summit to be held in New Delhi next year.

The leaders at the seventh SAARC summit jointly met President Abdur Rahman Biswas at President House today. They were: Begum Khaleda Zia, SAARC chairperson and prime minister of Bangladesh; King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan; Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa; Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao; Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif; President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives; and Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. They exchanged greetings with President Biswas and Mrs. Biswas. During a brief discussion, President Biswas expressed optimism over the outcome of the Dhaka summit in relation to the strengthening of friendship and cooperation among SAARC countries.

More Details on Summit

BK1104163093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit has ended with the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration. The concluding session of the two-day meet at the International Conference Center this afternoon was attended by all the seven SAARC heads of state and government. The final document containing the outcome of the conference was issued at the end of the summit.

The Dhaka Declaration embodies decisions taken by the seven SAARC leaders. The 14-page declaration focuses on issues like regional cooperation, integrated program of action, consensus on eradication of poverty in South Asia, trade, manufacture and services, environment, population, shelter, and children and youth. The declaration also contains a plan of action for disabled persons, women's development, science and technology, as well as terrorism and drug trafficking and drug abuse.

The SAARC Preferential Trade Arrangement, SAPTA, was signed during the closing ceremony. Five foreign ministers and two heads of (?state) of seven SAARC countries formally initialed the [word indistinct] agreement on SAPTA.

Addressing the closing session, the current chairperson of the SAARC, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, said that achievements of the seventh SAARC summit would enable the South Asian countries to look forward to the future with confidence and hope and help the nations work together for the cause of peace, amity and cooperation. She said the Dhaka Declaration symbolizes our strong resolve to work together for the promotion of peace, progress and stability in the region. The prime minister termed as constructive the steps taken during the summit and said the SAARC nations have definitely made a bold attempt to work for the cause of peace, amity and cooperation in South Asia. Begum Zia said that the decisions coming out of the deliberations of the leaders of the SAARC countries would surely make important contributions. They would strengthen our efforts to make SAARC more vibrant, dynamic and action-oriented for our common good.

In her concluding remarks, the new SAARC chairperson said: During the last two days we have had extensive discussions. These covered a large number of issues focused mainly on the objective of consolidating past gains and setting clear priorities and direction for the future initiative of the regional countries and [word indistinct]. She said we have pledges to take bold initiative to eradicate poverty from our countries within the shortest possible time. Begum Zia said [words indistinct] to move steadily toward the SAARC cooperation on hardcore economic issues. The prime minister said the SAARC countries have pledged to explore possibilities of greater cooperation on environment and disaster mitigation. Begum Zia said the seventh summit had also discussed the implications of growing global interdependence and the current international political and economic trends for South Asia. The prime minister said the SAARC nations had decided to project their collective interests in a rapidly changing global political and economic context. Begum Zia thanked the foreign ministers who had made valuable contributions to the success of the summit. She said that as chairperson for the coming year, she would constantly try to [words indistinct] generated by the present summit.

Giving the vote of thanks on behalf of the six other SAARC leaders, the host of the next summit, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, said the seventh summit was full of warmth. He said they have learned to understand each other and this has been reflected in the outcome of the summit. He extended invitation to all heads of state and government of member countries to the next summit in India.

Algeria

Ettahadi Party Leader Wounded in Assassination Attempt

NC1004110793 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Algiers, April 10 (AFP) - The leader of a secular opposition group, Hachemi Cherif, was wounded in the shoulder in an attempted assassination here Saturday, officials of his Ettahadi party told AFP.

An unidentified person in a taxi shot Cherif as he was sitting in a car with Ettahadi colleagues near the Aurassi Hotel, party officials said.

Cherif was taken to a private clinic.

Though no one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, Ettahadi officials said they believed it was carried out by Islamic extremists.

Cherif, who is the secretary general of Ettahadi, is the fifth politician to be attacked by alleged Islamic extremists since March 14.

Three of the others, including a former minister for higher education, were killed.

Algeria has suffered a wave of Islamic extremist violence since the military-backed government aborted the elections which the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win in January 1992.

Terrorist Group Leader Killed in Khemis El-Khechna

LD0904174693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The command of the national gendarmerie stated that a leader of a terrorist group in Khemis El-Khechna, in the Province of Boumerdes, was killed yesterday while two other terrorists were injured during an exchange of fire. The terrorist group, which was in a Zestava car, turned around after seeing the security point at Sidi Djaber area which prompted the security forces to chase and an exchange of fire ensued. According to the same source, the dead terrorist was named Senakedji Abdelaziz, who has been wanted since 1990 for his involvement in the assassination of a security officer and a number of robberies using shot guns.

Several Wounded in Attack on Ambulance

LD0904182293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] An ambulance of the civil defense transporting a patient was exposed to an armed attack at 0130 this morning in the province of Boumerdes which left no deaths, as was learned from sources close to the Ministry of Interior and Local Communities.

The attack, which took place at the municipality of Thenia, resulted in the injury of the patient who is 56 years old, with several injuries to her helper and two of the civil defense officers. One of the officers, who was shot in his hand, was taken to Ain Naadja hospital in the capital Algiers. The female doctor was unhurt.

The same source added that the security services have found the holes of 38 bullets in the body of the car. Two hand grenades and a home-made grenade were left by the terrorists before they made off.

Report on Results of Security-Armed Groups Confrontations

LD1204000693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] [Announcer] APS published unofficial statistics on the operations to combat terrorism in Algeria since the beginning of February. The statistics point out the intensification of activities on acts of terrorism by security men, and the switching of terrorism activity to hit civilians, women, and politicians. At the same it is noticed the citizens' participation in confronting terrorism.

[Correspondent] The statistics show that the security forces, since the beginning of February, have killed about twenty terrorists, especially in the center of the country, arrested about one hundred others, and recovered numerous quantities of weapons and explosives.

It is worth mentioning that security services estimate the number of terrorists who represent the hard-core of terrorism by about 175 terrorists, and the number of elements affiliated to the support network by 925 persons. Among the terrorists who were killed in clashes with the security forces is Zein Boulanouar, one of the killers of the late Djellali Liabes and Abdelhafid Sanhadri and the leader of the terrorist groups of Khemis El Khechna.

The security forces also succeeded in putting an end to six terrorists' activities involved in the attempt to assassinate the labor minister, and managed to know the identity of the killers of Dr. Hedi Flissi.

Most of the dead or arrested terrorists were concentrated in the Provinces of Blida and Boumerdes, but the security forces have started to pursue the armed groups in other parts of the country, such as the killing of five terrorists in the Col district, Skikda Province, since the beginning of the month.

The observers explain these recorded results in combating terrorism as a consequence of the participation which came from the citizens, bearing in mind that the people's national army has on its part hardened its language. EL DJEICH [ARMY] magazine had affirmed that the National Popular Army is determined and prepared to pay the most expensive price to put the country on the road of security and safety. In the face of the strong response from the security forces, the armed

groups directed its activities against the civilians, whereby seven civilians were killed since the beginning of the month. It also targeted for the first time a woman and a leader of a party, and did not hesitate to fire at an ambulance on Thursday last, a phenomenon which the observers considered the first of its kind in the history of the acts of terrorism.

Government Attacks 'Ulterior Motives' of Business Groups

LD1104204193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Sources close to the government spoke this evening about the government stand toward some of the recent actions of some of the leaders of entrepreneur associations. Here is Soraya:

[Correspondent Soraya] It has been learned from sources close to the prime minister that the recent attacks by representatives of some entrepreneur associations were most definitely a stage-managed political campaign and a total deviation from the role of these associations, which have abandoned their duty.

The source added: The duty of the entrepreneurs associations is to defend the interests of their members and not to become tools for political parties and a subject for partisan maneuvers. This confirms that some of the leaders of these associations have ulterior motives.

The government considers that the private sector is a vital force that has an important role in the Algerian economic and social reform policy. The positive role of the private sector is among the priorities of the government. This was stressed in the government program of September 1992. The government treated the private and public sectors equally. Preserving employment and creating further employment remain as the only criterion for benefiting from the subsidies in the field of imports and investment. All the institutions that learned how to avoid worker layoffs, created wealth, developed work, learned new technologies, and contributed to the national effort to improve the economy benefitted from these subsidies.

The government will fight any activities based on commercial and financial speculations, illegal accumulation of wealth, and all kinds of bribery by the so-called political-financial mafia.

The government is ready to work toward developing the national private sector, which produces wealth. The government will also inform the public about the negative behavior of these groups toward the national economy so that the public will be able to distinguish clearly between entrepreneurs who serve the national economy—and there are many of them—and those few groups that use various channels to defend their narrow personal interests.

Egypt

Mubarak, 'Arafat To Meet 12 Apr; Rabin To Arrive 14 Apr

NC1204141193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will meet tomorrow with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who is scheduled to arrive in Cairo later this evening. This was stated by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who noted that he will receive 'Arafat on arrival at the airport and hold talks with him on the same day.

Musa added that Mubarak's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been set for Wednesday. He refused to say where the meeting will be held. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister noted that he telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today and that they agreed to hold a meeting in Damascus this Friday and Saturday [16-17 April] among the foreign ministers of the five states involved in the peace process.

Musa on 'Arafat, Rabin Meetings

NC1104125893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet this week, adding that preparations are under way for the meeting, which may be held in Alexandria, Sharm al-Shaykh, or elsewhere.

In a statement today, Musa said Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Cairo this evening or tomorrow.

Musa explained that Egyptian contacts with various parties involved in the peace process are aimed at pushing the Middle East peace process forward.

Musa mentioned the meeting among the foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the peace process, scheduled to be held in Damascus this month, saying that he will get in touch with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to set the meeting date. It will probably be held on Thursday or Friday [15-16 April].

He also discussed Israel's agreement to include Palestinian representatives from East Jerusalem in the peace talks, saying that this is a step forward that must be exploited. We believe this step represents progress, he added.

Musa said Egypt is very interested in the Palestinian problem, self-determination, and the land issue. He noted that the deportee problem is an problem facing the negotiations, adding that efforts are under way to solve that and other problems.

Musa commented on the phenomenon of terrorism and the arrest of terrorists living in Afghanistan and Pakistan, saying that terrorism, murder, violence, and intimidation of civilians are "totally unacceptable under any circumstances."

Referring to reports from abroad, Minister Musa said terrorist acts give Islam a bad name. He asked: Who benefits when Islam's name is tarnished? He called for an end to terrorism.

Mubarak on Iran, Terrorism, Peace Talks, Iraq

NC1004131593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Paris, 10 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Iran seeks to shake stability in the Middle East and that it is behind the terrorist incidents that occurred in Egypt with help from former Afghan mojahedin.

In an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO published today, he said there are training camps in Sudan that receive extremists of various nationalities who go on to incite trouble in their countries.

He expressed his hope that all the Palestinians, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] followers, will decide to sit at the negotiating table and will not listen to the Iranians. He added that the Iranians do not hold the keys to the solution and that they say Jerusalem must be liberated while all they do is talk and talk. He said their aim is to pour oil on the flames.

Mubarak reaffirmed that Iran's primary goal is to lay its hands on the Gulf countries to control the oil, adding: Would Iran look twice at the Gulf states if they had no oil? He also asked what prompted the mullahs to make themselves champions of the poor. He said that they are the richest and most corrupt in the region and that the Muslims are not stupid and are well aware of Iran's true intentions.

He noted that the Iranians are Shiites and the majority of other Muslims are Sunnis, so they will not succeed in mobilizing the Muslims in the world to stand behind them. He said they will keep trying to do this but will always fail.

Mubarak said the Iranians get help from a few hundred Egyptians who, during the Afghan war, fought against the Soviet Army and were recruited in camps in Peshawar in Pakistan. He said Iran gave them some money, adding: They returned to Egypt and played their role in filling the simple people's minds with erroneous ideas about Islam. With a few dollars, they always found naive people whom they used to detonate bombs.

On the Arab volunteers in Afghanistan and whether their number was small, the president said: Yes, it was. There were a few hundred from each country: Egypt, Algeria, Tunis, and Saudi Arabia. A large number were not required to cause disturbances. The number of incidents in Egypt has not exceeded 40 or 50, but this was enough for the media to portray Egypt as if it were burning, which is not true.

He said that it is silly to imagine that Egypt is like Iran before the shah left. He said: There is no comparison because the Iranian regime was oppressive and Egypt is a democratic state with its own free press, multiparty system, and political plurality. In Egypt, you can say whatever you like on the condition that you do not break the law.

Asked if there is evidence that Iran is interfering in Egypt's internal affairs, Mubarak said that terrorists and those arrested by the police confessed that they received money and weapons.

Asked how Iranian weapons get into Egypt, Mubarak told LE FIGARO that the seized weapons had been used in Afghanistan and smuggled into Egypt through Sudan. The availability of weapons is not the problem, he said. In Beirut, he added, you can buy weapons on the street, and in the former Soviet Union there are people ready to sell weapons to any buyer anywhere.

Asked if he believes Iran also supports terrorism in Algeria, the president noted that Algeria broke off relations with Iran and recalled its ambassador in Khartoum.

He explained that the same tactics used in Egypt are being used in Algeria.

He said: There are certain Algerians in Sudan, and they are being sent to Algeria; the Iranians are trying to take advantage of Algeria's economic problems. They are doing the same thing in Tunisia, but the Tunisian president is reacting as necessary.

The Algerians need some time to crush terrorism but I believe they will do it, and I hope it will happen within a month, he said.

On the accusations against Sudan, Mubarak said: The Sudanese are training a number of Egyptians in Sudan. We know where the training camps are, and the Sudanese Government knows that we know. The Sudanese Government's decision to close the Cairo University branch in Khartoum is yet another example of Iran's interference.

Mubarak added: "We spend a lot of money to pay professors salaries, repair buildings, and buy books for the Khartoum branch. However, the Sudanese closed it because the Iranians paid them $15 million. Of course, the Iranians and the Sudanese will deny this piece of information as soon as they read it in your newspaper, but believe me, it is the truth."

On Iraq and President Saddam Husayn, Mubarak said: "Had Iraq listened to me, instead of invading Kuwait, Iran would have understood its true dimensions today and its real place in the world. As far as Tehran is concerned, the Iraqis are the ones that can restore the balance. I hope Baghdad will decide to respond to the

UN resolutions, enabling it to stand on its feet and tell the Iranians to stop where they are and not to search for a role far greater than their size. [no closing quotation marks as received]

On a question related to Syria, President Mubarak said Syria is a friendly country and relations between Damascus and Tehran do not mean Syria and Egypt cannot have good relations.

Asked about reports that Iran is seeking to obtain nuclear weapons, President Mubarak said that if Iran succeeds in acquiring the bomb, it will be a great danger for the world. The United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq because it was willing to build nuclear weapons. The Iraqis were punished for this ambition, and the United Nations should not allow Iran to search for the means to obtain nuclear weapons.

President Mubarak expressed concern that Iran is establishing links in this regard with the DPRK. He said: I told Baghdad one day that our region must be free of weapons of mass destruction. What applies to Iraq must apply to Iran, and the Middle East must be free from this threat.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt is exerting its utmost efforts to reach a solution to the Palestinian issue. He said that peace should not be halted just because obstacles are placed along the way, because those who are opposed to a settlement, including the Iranians, will not stop erecting these obstacles.

Mubarak also stressed in his interview with LE FIGARO that negotiations are the only way to solve the problem because peace cannot be achieved by force. He said that wars have never led to a settlement but open the way for negotiations and, at some point, there remains no option but to sit at the negotiating table.

He described the agreement concluded between the Israelis and the Americans on the Palestinian deportees issue as a "good start," and voiced his belief that the deportees question will find a solution quickly once the peace negotiations are resumed.

On his expected meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and what he will try to obtain, Mubarak said: I am not trying to get anything from Rabin or to give him anything. What I want is to prepare the way for peace. In this respect, we are working to make the peace process advance. This is my objective. The deportees problem should not be an obstacle that cannot be overcome and thus impede the negotiations.

In reply to another question, Mubarak said that Hamas includes certain elements that receive their orders directly from the Iranians. Tehran does not want peace achieved in this region and its agents have not stopped creating problems with the aim of destabilizing the entire Middle East.

Regarding developments in the Bosnia-Herzegovina tragedy, Mubarak said: The conflict in Bosnia is the EC's primary responsibility. The Serbs have seized all the weapons of the former Yugoslav Army, but as a result of the international embargo imposed by the United Nations, Bosnia cannot obtain the means for self-defense. This is not fair. The president went on to say: Either deal very strictly with the Serbs or help the Bosnians.

On the existence of social problems in Egypt, Mubarak said: Of course there are problems, but they are the result of the massive efforts we are undertaking to reform our economy. Citizens have to shoulder a heavy burden during this transitional phase. But we cannot stop. We hope that privatization and modernization will make us reach our objective of raising the citizens' standards of living.

In reply to a question on the extremists in the United States who use Islam as a cover, Mubarak said: France granted Khomeyni asylum. You hosted him, sheltered him, helped him, and listened to him. But what did you get in return when he reached power? Nothing at all. France became Khomeyni's number one enemy as soon as he settled in Tehran.

Mubarak added: The Americans thought that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman could become the Khomeyni of Egypt, but they were wrong. I repeat that Egypt is an open society where everyone can express himself. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman can return to Egypt whenever he wants, but he will not be the only one who can express himself. He might become the Khomeyni of the United States but he will certainly not be Egypt's Khomeyni.

Musa Returns From Morocco, Comments on Peace Talks

NC1004060893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2317 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo tonight from Morocco after a brief visit during which he conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Hassan II of Morocco. Musa also held talks with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, on the Arab situation and the Middle East peace process.

Upon his return, Musa said he is carrying a message from King Hassan to President Mubarak. He added that he briefed the king on the outcome of President Mubarak's visits to Europe and the United States and reviewed with him the situation in the Arab world and the upcoming ministerial meeting of the Arab League.

Asked about the U.S. proposals to push forward the peace process in the Middle East, Musa said it is imperative that all encouraging elements continue because negotiations under any circumstances will benefit all the parties. He noted that it is not in the interests of any party not to attend the upcoming round of talks scheduled on 20 April. He expressed the belief that all parties will attend these talks.

On the new deadline before which sanctions against Libya will not be increased, Musa said this deadline aims to reach a satisfactory solution. We will meet with Libya to discuss what can be done.

On the Islamic conference to be held in Karachi on 24 and 25 April, Musa said several issues will be discussed and he hopes the conference will achieve steps toward Islamic solidarity.

On President Mubarak's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Musa said the date of the meeting has not been set.

On reports that the Pakistani authorities arrested a large number of Arabs following President Mubarak's meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Bonn, Musa aid it is necessary to confront the terrorist operations using Islam as their cloak.

Al-Baz Returns, Views Peace Talks, Lockerbie Case

NC1204064993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo from Rome tonight following a tour that lasted several days and included Tunisia and Libya.

On his arrival, Dr. al-Baz said he delivered messages from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the outcome of President Mubarak's contacts during his recent tour of Europe and the United States. He said he is carrying verbal messages in reply to those from the president.

Dr. al-Baz added that the messages he conveyed to al-Qadhdhafi and 'Arafat dealt with the peace process, the Arab-Israeli negotiations, efforts to resume them, the situation in the Gulf region, the Libyan-Western dispute, and Egypt's stance on Bosnia- Herzegovina and Somalia.

He went on to say there was partial progress in the talks he held in Tunisia and Libya. On Libya, he said there is an agreement to let those suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie case be tried outside Libya, but not in the United States or any of the countries involved. He said the West might ask for more sanctions to be imposed against Libya, adding that there are alternatives the West will propose, including the imposition of an embargo on the export of equipment and spare parts needed for oil drilling, extraction, and purification; the transport of oil; the imposition of an embargo on the export of Libyan oil; or the freezing of Libyan funds abroad.

Dr. al-Baz said the talks held by President Mubarak during his European and U.S. tour helped greatly toward not intensifying sanctions against Libya now and toward giving Libya more time.

On resuming the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, Dr. al-Baz said that President Mubarak's talks with European leaders and with President Bill Clinton are expected to result in noticeable progress toward a resumption. He said Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Cairo tomorrow to meet President Mubarak and get acquainted with developments. He said there is an increasing chance of achieving a change in the Palestinian and Syrian positions on participation in the ninth round of the negotiations in light of the results of President Mubarak's recent tour.

Military Talks Held With Saudi Delegation

NC1004110993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0919 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—A session of military talks was held between Egypt and Saudi Arabia at the Defense Ministry this morning to discuss promoting military cooperation.

Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, led the Egyptian side and Staff Major General Mit'ib Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard, led the Saudi delegation.

At the beginning of the talks, Halabi emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia as an example to be followed in cooperation in various spheres. He praised the strong ties linking the two countries that are backed by the relationship between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and President Husni Mubarak.

He noted that the strong relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia are based on military cooperation in the interests of the Arab and Islamic nation and joint action in the interests of the peoples in the two fraternal countries. He expressed his hope that the Saudi delegation's talks in Egypt will promote this growing cooperation.

He said that events have proven that Egypt and Saudi Arabia provide a safety valve for the Arab nation by their resources, good intentions, and efforts for the good and in the interests of the Arab nation. He praised the Egyptian-Saudi cooperation during the Gulf crisis, which spared the Arab nation numerous threatening catastrophes. Concluding, he expressed his hope that the talks will be successful so that cooperation will continue in the Arab nation's interests under the leadership of King Fahd and President Mubarak.

Staff Maj. Gen. Mit'ib Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz delivered a speech, expressing his and the accompanying delegation's pleasure at visiting Egypt and meeting Egyptian military officials. He said: There are no more words to note what the Egyptian Armed Forces have done in the past, which history and people speak of. It is not unusual for the sons of the Nile Valley and for a mighty part of the Arab nation to adopt such historic stands.

Saudi-Egyptian relations are historical and our father King 'Abd-al-'Aziz advised us to allow such ties to keep growing forever and I believe that this has been proven by time and events.

He lauded the Egyptian people's and Government's stands and the Egyptian Armed Forces, saying that they are honorable stands that any sincere country in the Arab nation will not forget. He said that his and the accompanying delegation's visit marks the start, not the end, of enhanced cooperation, adding that he hopes cooperation will continue in various fields.

Arabs Urged To Confront 'Foreign Conspiracies'

NC0904154993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "Serious Endeavors Toward Peace Is a Necessity Dictated by Current International Circumstances"]

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's statement to THE WASHINGTON POST's chief diplomatic correspondent is more than important. It very clearly defines the facts of the current stage and sheds light on the elements of the positive action needed to achieve the hoped-for peace in the Middle East. The president discussed the Arab situation from all angles with extreme frankness and without any sensitivity or attempt to beautify the reality or play down its bitterness.

In his statement to the senior diplomatic correspondent of THE WASHINGTON POST, Mubarak stressed that the Arab countries need to move toward peace with full seriousness. He emphasized that it is necessary for the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table and participate in the next round of peace talks on 20 April. Otherwise, he said, they will lose a great deal, especially since the Americans will lose interest if the Arab countries fail to move quickly toward peace.

This is a serious and unequivocal statement that fully understands the importance of using the current international climate for the sake of peace, and that realizes the importance of striking while the iron is hot. The new U.S. Administration clearly expressed the desire to play a positive role to advance the peace process. It stressed that it will follow the policy of the previous administration in dealing seriously with the Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause. It will not be useful for the Arab peoples to gratuitously dissipate this earnest desire in a labyrinth of futile controversy, and weaken the Middle East problem in the whirlpool of other international problems instead of keeping it on the top of the world's list of priorities.

We are not playing down the problem of the Palestinian deportees. We were the first to call for Israel's compliance with UN Resolution 799 and the abandonment of the tyrannical deportation policy. But at the same time, we understand the movement of history and the course of development around us. We must not let the problems and obstacles created from time to time by the anti-peace forces block our positive movement toward peace. Some temporary and accidental problems must not blind us to the more general and comprehensive objective.

Achieving peace in the Middle East and ending long decades of enmity between the Arabs and Israel is an objective for which we must mobilize all our resources and recruit all our capabilities. We must not be distracted by the work of some marginal forces that fear being left out of the calculations of history and the facts of geography when the peace process in the region reaches its ultimate goal, spreading stability and security and irrevocably ending animosity and threats of war.

We say that some marginal countries that are painstakingly searching for any role for themselves, such as Iran, Iraq, and Sudan, are primarily interested in torpedoing the peace efforts and creating problems and obstacles in the region to realize their own objectives. For this reason, they do not hesitate to use the ugliest methods and employing the most degrading means. Realizing Egypt's leading Arab and international role, and its sincere efforts to close ranks to bring about peace in the Middle East, these marginal, disharmonious countries take every opportunity to attack Egypt. They never hesitate to direct their spears of rancor and waves of terrorism against the Egyptian people to preoccupy Egypt with its internal problems and make it abandon its pan-Arab duties.

The criminal scheme is exposed, and the attempts by some hireling terrorists to create confusion and skepticism at home are futile. They will only burn themselves and expose their objectives and cruel purposes. If we believe in the great Egyptians' ability to confront foreign conspiracies and blind terrorism, we also believe in the Arab peoples' ability to understand the facts of the international situation and the importance of common, serious work to achieve peace, disregarding any temporary problems or accidental obstacles created to torpedo the peace process.

'Revolutionary Muslims' Said To Infiltrate School System

NC1204064293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The Egyptian education minister has warned that revolutionary Muslims have infiltrated Egypt's education system. AFP reports that Husayn Kamal Baha'-al-Din told the Egyptian Senate that fundamentalists have gained control of the schools, universities, and teacher training centers. The Egyptian education minister said revolutionary Muslims have even replaced the flag-saluting ceremonies in schools with religious songs. Kamal Baha'-al-Din said fundamentalists, not the Education Ministry, compile the content of schools' academic programs.

The Egyptian minister called for a stronger approach on revolutionary Muslims and urged officials not to turn a blind eye to Muslims increasingly infiltrating the various fields of society.

Reports from Egypt indicate that following the assassination of the deputy security chief of Asyut in Abu Tij, a curfew has been declared in the city. Egyptian security forces have also intensified their efforts to arrest revolutionary Muslims. Egyptian officials have announced that in the past 24 hours, they have arrested at least 30 people.

Another report from Egypt states that security officials have accused the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—of organizing terrorist operations in Egypt.

Security Official, Aides Killed in Abu Tij

NC1104120093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 11 Apr (MENA)—Major General Muhammad al-Shimi, assistant director for security in Asyut, was killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on his car in a main square in Abu Tij, Asyut Governorate, today. His personal bodyguard and the car's driver were killed in the same incident.

Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hajli, assistant interior minister and director for securty in Asyut, went to the scene of the incident. Security forces cordoned off the area and began a search for the culprits.

Bomb Attempt in Bus Parking Lot Reportedly Foiled

NC1104150693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The security agencies today foiled an attempt by unidentified men to set the garage of the Public Transport Authority in the Madinat Nasir in Cairo on fire. A plastic bag was discovered under a seat in bus number 69, the al-'Atabah-Madinat Nasir route, along with two cans of gasoline. A detonator was found inside the bag connected to a small battery and a timer was set to explode at a certain time.

After its last run last night, the bus was driven inside the garage of the Public Transport Authority along with approximately 400 other buses, where they are parked for the night before resumption of work in the morning.

The bus driver and conductor, suspicious of the plastic bag, opened it thinking that a passenger had forgotten it under the seat. They saw the timer inside the bag but did not notice that it was connected to a detonator. They pulled it out, with the wire attached to the detonator, which triggered an explosion. The driver and conductor were slightly injured by shrapnel and were taken to hospital.

Major General Nadir 'Uthman, director of the Civil Defense and Fire Brigade Department in Cairo went to the scene of the explosion in Madinat Nasir. The detonator, the remains of the timer, and the gasoline cans were seized, and experts of the criminal laboratory examined the detonator and the effects of the blast.

Mag. Gen. Nadir told MENA that a disaster had been avoided that would have destroyed the garage in Madinat Nasir and the surrounding area because the approximately 400 buses were full of diesel oil and there were quantities of grease and oils in the garage. He appealed to citizens not to approach bags and to immediately report any suspicious objects to the police.

Commentary Promises 'Unforgettable Lesson' to 'Terrorists'

NC1204154993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Mahmud Marzuq commentary: "Egypt Stands Up to Terrorism for Development and Progress"]

[Excerpts] There is a consensus in both Arab and foreign media that President Husni Mubarak's tour of the United States and Europe has succeeded. As we follow up on that tour and Mubarak's meetings with world leaders and key figures—including the IMF and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development economic officials, the president of a British development fund, the Paris Club representative in France, and a German businessmen's group—it becomes clear to us that Egypt is highly appreciated. This appreciation gives fair credit to the accomplishment of reform and economic liberation programs in Egypt. U.S. congressmen have expressed admiration for and appreciation of the Egyptian political and governmental success in overcoming serious obstacles encountered since 1986. With patience and the proper application of two successful five-year plans, Egypt has managed to emerge from the economic bottleneck which has resulted from the loss of foreign currency revenues since 1986 and until the beginning of the reform program.

All this confirms significant facts. The first is that Mubarak undertook full responsibility when he addressed the economic crisis in Egypt. He believed that any delay after 1986 was bound to adversely affect the Egyptian people's resources and, accordingly, hamper the possibility of effecting development changes in Egypt. [passage omitted]

The second fact is that the United States and Europe have affirmed to Mubarak that they will continue to support and cooperate with Egypt to enhance Egyptian capabilities in many fields, particularly the economy.

Supervised by Iran, together with Iraq and Sudan, international terrorism is trying to deal a blow to the Egyptian economy by attacking tourist sites in Egypt and threatening attacks against investment areas. [passage omitted]

We recall Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's decision to expel various terrorist elements from Peshawar, which is being used by Iran in carrying out its schemes—schemes that rely on different terrorist dens in Sudan and Peshawar in addition to large terrorist camps located in a number of Iranian cities.

Egyptian-international cooperation in this field is a message to terrorist states that there will be no tolerance with these regimes. [passage omitted]

The third fact is that with the world's testimony, Egypt has managed to surround the economic crisis, and that with its accomplishments in the field of economic development, it can play a positive and effective role in serving its brothers in the Arabian Gulf states.

Iran is unnerved by Egypt's leading role in pan-Arab security, which has deprived it of carrying out its terrorist schemes to intimidate the Gulf states and impose control over them. This role also has blocked Iran's continuous assault on Arab territorial integrity, as represented by its occupation of the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra. If it were not for Egypt's firm stand in support of Gulf states, including its effective participation in the Damascus Declaration, Iran would have extended its aggression and control to the states of this fraternal region. That is why Iran has lost its nerve and responded to Egypt's conduct by exporting terrorism, terrorizing the secure people, and destroying the people's livelihood in an attempt to cause internal disturbances in Egypt.

We say to the rulers in Tehran, in particular, and in Khartoum and Baghdad that Egypt is strong, that its domestic front is firm, and that there is a peerless cohesion among the leadership, the government, and the people in standing up to terrorism and setting out to enhance reconstruction and progress. The Egyptian people will teach these terrorists and those pushing them toward destruction an unforgettable lesson.

Finally, the Egypt of civilization, integrity, and Islam is a lofty castle full of unshakable belief in the face of these terrorist practices aimed at hampering the march of development and progress. These terrorists will always be misled.

Morocco

Egypt's 'Amr Musa Makes Statement, Departs Rabat

LD0904222493 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Before the departure of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa from Morocco today, he made a statement in which he said:

[Begin Musa recording] The message that I delivered from his excellency the president to his majesty the king deals with the situation in the Arab world, and the results of President Mubarak's European tour and his visit to Washington.

Naturally, the main element in the message was the peace process and the importance of pushing it forward and overcoming the obstacles that confront it and also coordination with regard to the upcoming developments in the peace process and the upcoming Arab League meeting. The meeting will be chaired by Morocco, especially when Egypt was the previous chairman.

A review of the Arab world, in all its dimensions, took place. At the same time, I have been given a message from his majesty the king, which I will deliver to his excellency the president. [end recording]

Answering a question about the conditions in the Middle East in the shadow of the resumption of the bilateral peace negotiations, Musa confirmed that there is some hope of resuming these negotiations and that it is quite important that they are resumed as soon as possible. He explained that there is coordination between Morocco and Egypt to strengthen the Arab negotiators for the sake of Arab interests.

He affirmed that the essence of the issue has been to recover Arab rights and overcome the obstacles in the way of the peace efforts. They include the issue of the Palestinian deportees. The Egyptian foreign minister declared that the U.S. position lies in supporting the peace process and that there are U.S. proposals that will be conveyed to the sides concerned, especially the Palestinian side and the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Bosnian President Izetbegovic Visits Riyadh

LD1004001293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Apr (SPA)—His Excellency the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic arrived in Riyad this evening. He was greeted upon arrival at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Khalid al-Faysal, chairman of the King Faysal International Prize Committee; Dr. Abd al-Aziz al-Khuyatir, the minister of culture; a representative from the Royal Protocol and a number of officials. It is noteworthy to recall that His Excellency President Alija Izetbegovic has been awarded the King Faysal International Prize for this year for his services to Islam.

Riyadh Governor Gives Aid to Izetbegovic

LD1104134993 Riyadh SPA in English 1316 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 11, SPA—Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, chairman of the higher committee for collecting donations to Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, received here today Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

The meeting was attended by Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic and Saudi Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir.

During the meeting, Prince Salman and the Bosnian president reviewed the conditions of Bosnian Muslims who were victimized by the Serb aggression.

President Izetbegovic explained the current situation in his country and the conditions of Muslims there.

Prince Salman told his guest that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was receiving due attention from the Kingdom at both official and popular levels.

At the end of the meeting Prince Salman handed an SR [Saudi riyals] ten million check to President Izetbegovic representing part of donations made by citizens to their brethren in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

The committee has earlier transferred more than SR 161 million to the victims of Serb aggression in Bosnia.

President Izetbegovic thanked the Saudi Government and people for their liberal aid to their brother Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Izetbegovic Holds News Conference

LD1104222293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 11 Apr (SPA)—His Excellency President Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, described the aid his country had received from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, as effective and said that it played its role.

He thanked the government and the people of the Kingdom for the backing and the support they had given and are still giving to the sons of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Izetbegovic announced that he has donated half of the King Faysal international award for the service of Islam to the fund of the wounded and refugees, particularly the children of Bosnia- Herzegovina. He received the award from His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, during the ceremony that was held last night.

President Izetbegovic called on the Islamic States to do their duty toward his country at a news conference he held last night after receiving the award. He pointed out the difficult conditions in which the people of Bosnia are living.

He affirmed that the Serbs continue to commit aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and that, at present, there is a big campaign being waged by the Serbs against Bosnia. He noted that the people of Bosnia are experiencing extremely difficult circumstances today. [passage omitted]

The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina affirmed that his government has and still is making all efforts to solve this tragedy peacefully by participating in conferences and talks on peace in Bosnia- Herzegovina. He pointed out that his country took part recently in signing the agreement drawn up by the two UN mediators, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

He said: We did not sign this agreement because it suited us, but because we wanted to resolve the problem peacefully. The Bosnian president called for help to his country in money and arms, and said: We have 700,000 refugees, 10,000 injured, and 10,000 homeless who need food, clothes, and medicine.

President Izetbegovic ruled out the possibility that there was a European conspiracy to prevent the setting up of an Islamic state in Europe, and he said that Bosnia has been recognized as an independent state. He said it has become a member of the United Nations. He affirmed that the existence of the state of Bosnia in this framework was in the interest of Muslims.

He expressed his conviction that the western states believe that the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina can coexist in peace with the minorities existing in the country. He said that there was no aggression by the Bosnian Muslims. The western states know this, but they have not found a means of stopping the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He warned against negligence in finding a peaceful solution in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: If positive steps are not taken quickly, and soon, then war will spread in the Balkans. It will start in the Kosovo

province, and it would possibly be a prelude to a third world war, especially if the situation in Russia continues as it is now.

Izetbegovic described the air exclusion zone imposed by the Security Council against Serb flights as useful, all the more since aircraft and helicopters, in particular, become active during the spring and summer. He said: This ban will have no decisive significance.

The Bosnian president called for the arms embargo against Bosnia to be lifted for self-defense, and he said that Article 51 of the UN Charter stipulates that a state against which an aggresaion is committed has the right to defend itself by its own means or with the help of others. He hinted that this passage of the charter allows the Islamic states to help Bosnia in its current war against Serbia.

Answering a question on the visit paid to Baghdad by the defense minister of former Yugoslavia, and whether this is linked to the current war, he contented himself with saying: They have not talked in the interest of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but I do not know exactly what they have talked about.

Commenting on whether the Baghdad regime is one of the states helping the Serbs, he said: We have no detailed information about all these states that have collaborated with Belgrade, but I believe that you know this.

He added: "We asked all Arab and Islamic states to sever relations with Serbia and with those states who support Serbia; some countries responded to our request, while others did not."

He went to say that "we are aware that there are some Muslim states that are cooperating with Serbia. Their number is not large, and we know that the Muslim peoples will not forgive them in this matter."

At the end of his news conference, Izetbegovic called on Muslim journalists to shoulder their responsibilities with regard to their brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina and highlight their tragedy to the public in their countries and in the rest of the world."

King Fahd Banquet for Izetbegovic

LD1104230193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 11 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, this evening received at the royal court in al-Yamama Palace His Excellency President Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the delegation accompanying him. The custodian of the two holy mosques held a dinner banquet in honor of President Izetbegovic and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency President Izetbegovic then held a meeting at King Fahd's office at the royal court in al-Yamama palace this evening. [passage omitted]

Izetbegovic Goes to Mecca

LD1204061593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2240 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Apr, (SPA)—His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, left Riyadh for Jeddah this evening en route for Holy Mecca to perform the rites of minor pilgrimage. [passage omitted on those who saw him off at the airport—the Saudi minister of education, a protocol officer, and a number of unnamed officials]

Foreign Pilgrims Warned Not To Carry Subversive Literature

LD1204105793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 12 Apr (SPA)—The Interior Ministry has issued a statement noting that certain brothers who came from abroad to perform the pilgrimage rites are carrying books, photographs and leaflets with political, propaganda or ideological aims. Here is the text of the statement:

[Passage omitted: Koranic verse] The Interior Ministry has noticed that some individuals among the brothers coming from abroad are carrying with them—whether in good faith or wishing to exploit this honorable occasion—books, photographs and leaflets having political, propaganda or ideological aims. These could affect some people or directly offend others, a matter which contradicts the noble aim of pilgrimage.

Therefore, according to the information it has gathered, the Interior Ministry would like to draw attention to the fact that such things are forbidden. The ministry hopes that the pilgrims will have the opportunity to perform their rites with humility and that there will be no attempts to distract them from the prayers for which they came. The ministry hopes that everyone will adhere to this and that no one will try to violate it. [passage omitted: Koranic verse]

Coalition Aircraft 'Violations' 5, 6 Apr Protested

JN0904121793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (INA)—Iraq has made a protest to the Arab League concerning the facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to enable U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace.

A memorandum to that effect says that U.S., British, and French aircraft continued their violations of Iraqi airspace—flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—thus threatening Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

The memorandum explains that these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace on 5 and 6 April and carried out 95 hostile sorties while flying from these bases.

Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League asked that the Arab states be informed of these regrettable facts.

Reportage, Reaction to Cluster Bomb Drop

'Flares, Cluster Bombs' Dropped

JN0904171893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—At around 1300 today, Friday, 9 April 1993 two aircraft dropped flares in the vicinity of the Saddam Dam in Ninawa Governorate, according to an official Foreign Ministry source.

At around 1310 today, the same aircraft, flying at an estimated altitude of 7 km, dropped three cluster bombs on one of our military positions assigned to protect the dam.

This aggression has left one of our valiant soliders injured, the spokesman said.

Since only U.S., British, and French aircraft fly over the region, they must be held responsible for this aggressive, and provocative bahavior and its consequences, the source stated.

Ninawa Governor Reacts

JN0904183893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Enemy aircraft this afternoon committed provocative, aggressive actions in the tourist district in the Saddam Dam vicinity in the Ninawa Governorate.

An INA correspondent reports that two aircraft, flying at a high altitude, dropped three cluster bombs, after dropping flares. This action has left one of our valiant soldiers injured.

This provocative raid has drawn the denunciation of summer vacationers in the tourist city of Saddam Dam and the surrounding area. Citizens vacationing in the tourist city condemned the treacherous act of the aggressive aircraft as being counter to all international norms and conventions, as well as being a reflection of the hate felt by enemies toward great Iraq, its mujahid people, and its cultural renaissance.

Meanwhile, Ninawa Governor 'Abd-al-Jawad Dallul, has condemned the provocative act of the aggressive aircraft that trageted the Saddam Dam tourist area. He emphasized that the aircraft that targeted a military position carried out the aggression when the fighters were having lunch, without any of the air defense systems being prepared. He indicated that this provocative action coincided with the Ninawa Governorate celebrations of the immortal April and spring, when there is a considerable number of vacationers in the area.

U.S. Claims of Gunfire 'Baseless'

JN1004091993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—An official Foreign Ministry source has described as baseless the claims by the U.S. State and Defense Departments that U.S. aircraft were exposed to gunfire from Iraqi air defenses.

In a statement to INA today, the source said that Iraq declared a cease-fire on 19 January, that the Iraqi Armed Forces are committed to it, and that had Iraq decided to change its position, it would have announced this at the highest leadership level.

The official Foreign Ministry source held the U.S. side fully responsible for the hostile and provocative action that was carried out yesterday. It said that this action was unjustified, and took place in an area full of civilians who were celebrating spring in Ninawa Governorate.

Paper on 'Cowardly Aggression'

JN1004085793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0724 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has expressed anger and indignation over the new hostile provocations which were carried out yesterday by aircraft of the evil tripartite alliance against the tourist city near the Saddam Dam, north of the city of Mosul.

In an article today entitled "A Cowardly Aggression," the paper stresses that the steadfastness of Saddam's Iraq and people and their rallying around their unique leadership are so strong that they are not affected by such provocations. These provocations show the cowardice of the aggressors and that their crimes have sunk so low that they bombed a peaceful tourist city in an attempt to scare innocent civilians.

The paper, the organ of the government, says: Those who instructed the treacherous aircraft to drop their bombs on innocent people and peaceful areas in the tourist city should know full well that the Iraqis, who strongly, bravely, and resolutely confronted thousands of raids by aircraft of the criminal 30-state alliance, are capable of

confronting this new aggression and any other aggression with hearts full of love for Iraq and its brave leader Saddam Husayn.

The paper adds: Such mean aggression will never be able to affect the Iraqis, their stands, will, and unity. They are full of anger against the evil aggressors, agents, and allies.

The paper describes Iraq's stand in the face of these aggressions as patriotic and becoming stronger every time the aggressors are indulged further and every time they continue their provocations against Iraq and its patient, peaceful, and brave people.

The paper adds: It seems that the leaders of the hostile tripartite U.S.-British-French alliance were angered by the spring festival in Ninawa Governorate and the renewal of the people's allegiance to leader Saddam Husayn. This is why they provoked Iraq and carried out their aggression against its steadfast people.

Papers Denounce 'Unwarranted' Action

JN1104093793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Iraqi papers today denounce the aggressive U.S. attitude toward Iraq and its negative position on Iraq's peaceful initiative declared on 19 January.

The papers publish editorials and articles denouncing the unwarranted aggressive, provocative action carried out by U.S. aircraft Friday afternoon.

AL-THAWRAH says that the statements and conduct of U.S. officials reflect excessive arrogance, disdain, and disregard for the will of nations and for international law.

The paper, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the conduct of U.S. officials diametrically conflicts with the human and civilized values they claim to advocate and brag about. [passage omitted]

The paper notes Clinton's statements during his meeting with the president of the Egyptian regime, Christopher's recent statements, as well as the recent aggressive, provocative action carried out by hostile aircraft under very flimsy pretexts.

It adds that this irresponsible behavior shows that U.S. officials do not want to understand Iraq's position and its fresh, sincere desire to establish new relations with the United States based on understanding, mutual respect, and resolving all problems peacefully. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iraq will hold its ground and adhere to its principles and leader struggler Saddam Husayn. A few flares and cluster bombs will not weaken Iraq. Nor will Iraq be affected by absurd statements made by U.S. officials.

Concluding, the paper says: Apparently, the United States is unable to free itself from the pressure of the Zionist lobby and the influence of some Gulf regimes. The United States is fully responsible for the provocative, aggressive action, and all false U.S. pretexts will not count, because Iraq will continue to adhere to the cease-fire.

In its editorial headlined "The U.S. Administration's Arrogance, Domination Approach," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The U.S. Administration's reckless conduct confirms that it has not learned from past lessons, since it has continued to play the same old, senseless tunes played by the Bush administration against Iraq. This is despite the fact that events have confirmed the failure of the uncalculated, aggressive approach against Iraq. [passage omitted]

Daily Assails 'Aggression'

JN1104134093 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 11. INA—Enemy planes on Friday attacked an Iraqi tourist installation in the northern province of Ninawa, dropping three containers of cluster bombs on a guard post at Saddam Dam, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER daily newspaper said today.

A paper editorial added that for Iraq, the attack did not come as a surprise, for the Iraqis are well aware of the hostile and inhuman stances of the Western coalition against their country's sovereignty and national independence. However, the timing of this unnecessary and repulsive aggression remains to be probed.

A few days ago, a delegation comprising more than 350 dignitaries and prominent figures from the same province had called on the president to affirm their support to the government and allegiance to the leadership of the president. Hence, the attack may well be a savage message to the Iraqi rank-and-file to terrorize them and force them to give into the whims of aggressors.

A sovereign U.N. founding-member is attacked every now and then by a group of aggressors who hypocritically claim to be "defenders" of international law and "protectors" of human rights.

Practically, such an act is an open insult to the international community tantamount to abrogation of international laws that govern world affairs. When a nation like Iraq is attacked whenever and wherever the U.S. and its allies like, the state-of-affairs will be nothing more than that of the law of the jungle.

The goal of the aggressors is to drive a wedge between the government and the people of Iraq through such terrorist means, one may as well say that such a means is neither proper nor applicable in case of Iraq. Years of war and repeated acts of terrorism have failed to achieve such hostile political goals.

What could not be achieved through dozens of aggressions throughout two decades cannot be achieved through raids on Iraqi civilian installations. Quite on the

contrary. Such acts would only foster and strengthen the Iraqi government-people cohesion.

A sovereign and independent U.N. member-state Iraq has the full right to defend itself against foreign attacks. While the general public feeling here is one of strong condemnation and disgust against such acts, the government is duty-bound to reserve the right to act in a proper manner and at the proper time. And it is only natural to say that the aggressors are the party to bear the full responsibility for the consequences of the recent aggression.

The right to self-defence is guaranteed by the U.N. Charter for all independent U.N. members, and Iraq is an independent U.N. member- state, Isn't it?

Engineers Defuse Cluster Bombs

JN1004183193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The INA correspondent in Ninawa Governorate who visited the Saddam Dam area—a target of aggression yesterday—has reported that teams from the Engineers Battalion of the 5th Army Corps continue to defuse unexploded cluster bombs.

The INA correspondent in Ninawa, 400 km north of Baghdad, reports that explosives teams are working on defusing 30 cluster bombs that did not explode when they hit the ground. They are doing this to ensure the safety of visitors to the Saddam Dam tourist district, residents, and shepherds in this region, which was the target of the attack.

Talabani Cited on 'Future Iraq,' Mubarak

JN0904211593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, by Salim Badawi, carried in "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Badawi] It is true that international, regional, and Arab stands differ and vary over what should be the fate of President Saddam Husayn and the future of Iraq as a regime and a country. However, all trends in the Iraqi opposition believe that an end to Iraq's current plight is contingent upon removing the current regime. There are differing ideas regarding the alternative regime. Conceptions regarding this range from the mere removal of the Saddam Husayn regime to the establishment of a democratic parliamentary system of government based on the multiparty system. Some of these conceptions also envisage the creation of a federal system of government, as Kurds propose.

Let us attempt to sound out the views of Jalal Talabani. Does the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] believe that the Iraqi opposition, given its current state of affairs and the differing intellectual and political courses they are pursuing, can offer an alternative to the current Iraqi regime?

[Talabani] I believe that the Iraqi opposition, the majority of which formed a united front in the Unified Iraqi National Congress, can offer an alternative to the existing dictatorial regime. The unified opposition represents all ethnic and religious groups within Iraq. Consequently, it reflects Iraqi national unity, ensures the unity of Iraq, and would prevent infighting among Iraqis once the dictatorial regime is toppled.

[Badawi] How would you characterize the alternative to this regime?

[Talabani] It would be a democratic parliamentary system of government, based on the multiparty system. Such a regime would provide democratic rights and basic liberties to all Iraqis. Moreover, this regime would allow for the election of an Iraqi constituent national assembly that would draft a permanent constitution for Iraq. I cannot envisage a future Iraq without democracy. I believe that democracy is the panacea [preceding word in English] and the cure for all the problems being experienced by the Iraqi people. In the absence of democracy, I cannot envisage Iraq remaining united.

[Badawi] Jalal Talabani: There are calls for involving Iraq in a new regional security regime in the Gulf, as Omani officials are making clear. Besides, President Mubarak has made a statement, saying that the removal of the Saddam Husayn regime would be a grievous mistake. Additionally, some big powers no longer link Iraq's compliance with UN Security Council resolutions to the removal of the Iraqi regime. Do you not view these developments as signs showing the start of moves to end Iraq's political isolation—something which could serve as a prelude to lifting the economic sanctions and reinforcing the regime ruling in Baghdad?

[Talabani] As a matter of fact, I deem strange the statement made in this regard by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. This is because such a statement runs counter to facts and realities. Besides, the survival of the Iraqi regime is what poses a certain danger to the current entity of Iraq. The dictatorial Iraqi regime has actually divided Iraq into various sects, forces, and groups. I am afraid that the statement made by President Mubarak in this regard was meant to exaggerate the Iranian danger, to instigate the West against this Iranian danger, and to distract attention from the dictatorial Iraqi regime. As for the Omani Government, I do not believe that the Omani Government can influence even its own neighbors. How then is it

expected to influence the course of events regarding Iraq? With regard to the current international state of affairs, contrary to what some people may think, I believe that the U.S. and British stands are now more stringent toward Iraq than they were in the past.

[Badawi] Based on this, how then do you envisage a future Iraq?

[Talabani] I believe that a future Iraq will be a democratic and unified country. In the absence of democracy, and without toppling the dictatorial regime which is oppressing the Iraqi people, there will be no future for Iraq. Indeed, if this state of affairs is maintained, Iraq will be divided into several parts.

Opposition Cited on Murder of Nuclear Scientists

JN1004115893 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 5 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Tehran—Iraqi opposition sources have stressed that two Iraqi nuclear scientists were killed by unidentified armed men in Baghdad last month.

The sources said that Dr. Talal was found murdered in his house in al-A'azamiyah area in Baghdad, and that Dr. 'Amir was found murdered in his house in the Tammuz quarter on 14 February.

It is to be recalled that another scientist was earlier killed in Jordan, and that Amman accused Iraqi intelligence personnel of assassinating this nuclear scientist, who escaped to Jordan to rid himself of the Iraqi regime's pressure.

Appointment of al-Husayni as Delegation Head for Talks Viewed

Peres Comments on Appointment

TA1104044793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said the government has not made a formal decision on the appointment of Faysal al- Husayni as head of the Palestinian delegation, but Peres says the government will obviously agree.

Faysal al-Husayni told Israel Radio last night that the matter still requires clarifications. The present head of the Palestinian delegation, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, yesterday denied the report that there are plans to replace him. It was the United States which suggested to Israel that al-Husayni be accepted as head of the Palestinian delegation. Up till now, he has been on the advisory council but not the delegation.

The previous government of Prime Minister Shamir refused to agree to al-Husayni's participation in the negotiations because he lives in East Jerusalem. Under the new compromise agreement Israel agrees to negotiate with al-Husayni because he also has an address in Jericho. However, Israel will insist that the future of Jerusalem cannot be discussed in the negotiations on the interim settlement.

Meretz Holds 'Positive View'

TA1004182393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ran Kohen, chairman of the Meretz Knesset faction, has said that Faysal al-Husayni's announcement that he will accept the management of the Palestinian delegation for the talks is a step toward normalization between Israel and the Palestinians and will contribute to the promotion of peace. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that according to MK Kohen, Meretz holds a positive view of al-Husayni's agreement because he is a leader accepted by both the residents of the territories and the PLO leadership in Tunis.

Acceptance of al-Husayni Viewed

TA1104150393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Apr 93 p 1

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "Al-Husayni's Joining the Palestinian Delegation—an Attempt To Strengthen it Without Allowing the Participation of PLO-Tunis"]

[Text] Israel's agreement that Faysal al-Husayni join the Palestinian delegation constitutes, first and foremost, an attempt to strengthen the manageability of peace negotiations on the Palestinian side. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who in 1990 supported the overthrow of the government over not including East Jerusalemites in the negotiations, could not for long denounce this stand while making complaints about the weakness of the Palestinian delegation in the talks.

In agreeing to al-Husayni's inclusion, Israel is making two gestures toward the PLO which seem to be contradicting each other. One the one hand, al-Husayni is a senior PLO member, and speaking to him is a step toward direct contacts with "the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," without mediators. On the other hand, Israel is attempting to bolster the old Rabin distinction between "PLO-territories" and PLO-Tunis," at the latter's expense. The fact that the Palestinians are aware of this attempt is the main reason for their hesitation to make a final decision about al-Husayni's participation.

In agreeing to al-Husayni's inclusion, the Rabin government is making its first significant deviation from the ground rules it has inherited from the Likud government. Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister at the time, forced the participants of the Madrid conference to "remove" deportees and East Jerusalemites "from the game." Traumatized by the outcome of the Gulf crisis, the Palestinians were forced to accept this. Time will tell whether the Palestinians will be satisfied with this deviation, or whether this will provide a cause for further, more substantive, demands for deviations from the "Madrid formula," such as the agreement according to which Israel and the Palestinians are obligated to currently discuss the interim arrangement, and the final arrangement only three years later.

Many ministers believe that the agreement to deviate from the "Madrid formula" is a practical expression of Rabin's increasing realization that it is impossible to conduct negotiations while forsaking the Palestinians, which appeared to be the direction of this government since it was set up, when the theory of "Syria first" seemed to prevail. The Palestinians have proven their capability to shape a pan-Arab consensus and, furthermore, terror acts carried out by mainly the political process opponents have shown that the Palestinian problem is the most difficult and most urgent to deal with. From the Israeli public's point of view, knife-wielding attackers on the streets of Israel are far more threatening than Scud-C missiles that Syria has procured from North Korea.

The decision is not expected to stir up a storm on the political home front, although the Likud will try to achieve political gain from it. It can be assumed with a degree of certainty that the decision to allow al-Husayni join the Palestinian delegation will mainly be accepted with indifference. The Likud leaders could also be reminded that deciding not to include East Jerusalemites, which toppled the national unity government, was accepted by a Knesset vote which Shamir initiated on 15 March 1990 despite the position of the decisive majority of the Likud ministers.

Al-Husayni, a figure the Israeli public is familiar with and perhaps even half sympathizes, could even raise

renewed hopes among the Israeli public about the chances of the negotiations succeeding. His trial, however, will not be on our side. It will be on theirs: A continued Palestinian paralysis, even after al-Husayni joins the delegation, could be lethal.

More Concessions Offered To Get Palestinians Back to Talks

TA1104045093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Israel has offered more concessions aimed at making it possible for the Palestinians to return to the peace negotiations. The proposals were conveyed to the Palestinian leaders by the United States. Israel is offering to repatriate about 50 Palestinians expelled in 1987 or earlier. A partial list has already been prepared. Israel has also proposed a large-scale family reunification. In other words, Palestinians living abroad who were separated from their families for one reason or another would be returned to the territories. The Israeli authorities would also issue a large number of building permits in the territories both for houses and factories. Israel would also construct industrial zones in the territories at its own expense and offer incentives for the establishment of businesses and manufacturing industries. The land for the industrial zones has already been selected.

Jerusalem Patriarch Calls For Church Role in Peace Talks

LD1004130793 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpts) On this symbolic day, the patriarch of Jerusalem has declared for the first time that the Church intends to take part in the peace negotiations in the Middle East. Charles Enderlin has met the patriarch:

[Passage omitted] [Enderlin] For Michel Sabah, apart from its moral role as far as the conflict is concerned, the Catholic Church cannot stay out of the peace talks.

[Begin Sabah recording] This is not only a political conflict between two people, between the Israelis and the Palestinians, or between the Jewish world and the Arab world. It is a conflict that also involves the holy places. And the Church and all the Christians of the entire world are concerned about the holy places. Another way, more formal and official will be needed; a different kind of presence of the Church in the talks, to really define the problem in all its religious dimension. [passage omitted on need for special status for Jerusalem] [end recording]

Cabinet Session Ends; Closure To Continue Indefinitely

TA1104130893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman, from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpts] [Gutman] The cabinet has just ended its special session with a decision that the closure imposed on the territories will continue indefinitely. Until otherwise stated, the cabinet will make weekly decisions whether to continue the closure and how many laborers will be allowed to leave the territories for work in Israel. In making this decision, the cabinet made a very important move toward disengagement and total separation of Israel from the territories. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's direction of separation between Israel and the territories—at least as far as labor is concerned—was expressed in today's cabinet resolutions.

Along with the decision to continue the curfew, the cabinet made declarations of principle about the need to rehabilitate the infrastructure in the territories, and to invest there to create jobs. At the same time, it decided that no unemployment wages will be paid to the Palestinian laborers in the territories who lost their jobs due to the closure.

Let us hear Minister Amnon Rubinstein:

[Rubinstein] The cabinet decided to continue the closure, subject to several conditions. Among other things, the decision is accompanied by a resolution to create jobs and help the unemployed in the territories, financially or otherwise, which I demanded. [passage omitted]

[Gutman] Minister Yosi Sarid, why did you oppose the decision to extend the closure?

[Sarid] We did not oppose the continuation of the closure, but as is well known, the closure creates very serious economic distress in the territories, mainly in the Gaza Strip. There is a fear that this distress might eventually create hunger, which breeds riots. Hence, since I did not hear that the cabinet decision today specifically stated that there is a need to make investments in the territories, I could not vote for it.

[Gutman] Were general declarations made in this respect?

[Sarid] Declarations of intent were made, and I respect that, but for as long as I do not hear specific facts and figures about the scope of investment we are willing to make and, furthermore, for as long as I do not hear about the manner in which Israel will compensate those who will lose their job and find themselves in an impossible economic situation, I will not support such a resolution. As it stands now, the resolution to some extent shakes off our responsibility as the occupying power in those places. [passage omitted]

[Gutman] Minister Sarid, how would you describe this very long session?

[Sarid] The session was very good. Every minister had the opportunity to freely express his opinion. In this respect it was a good discussion because it sets a precedent. Meaning that I believe that all the ministers are

fully aware of the fact that separation from the territories is positive. The debate is only over the possible pace of this move.

Ministers Allow Laborers To Enter From Territories

TA1104144293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] A ministerial team, headed by Prime Minister Rabin and including Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ora Namir and Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, today approved entry and working permits for 7,000 laborers from the territories to work in agriculture. The prime minister also established another ministerial team—which he will be heading and will include Minister Namir, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer, and Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish—to discuss the entire issue of releasing laborers from the territories for work in Israel.

After today's cabinet session, Minister Namir told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the aim is that by the end of the year some 20,000 Israelis take the place of that number of laborers from the territories. She said that when the situation is restored and the closure lifted, 70,000 laborers from the territories, at the most, will be allowed to work in Israel, provided they are registered in a labor organization. Prior to the closure, some 120,000 laborers had worked in Israel.

Peres on 'Separation,' Peace Process

TA1104075393 Tel Aviv DAVAR (Pesah supplement) in Hebrew 11 Apr 93 p 13

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hemi Shalev, place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shalev] An hour glass, a gift from the Kur conglomerate, has been on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' desk for several days. It is therefore almost impossible to escape the cliche that Shim'on Peres' time is running out. Based on this interview, it is more than just a cliche. Peres, it seems, is losing patience.

Peres is opposed to the "separation" policy, attacks the policy of immigrant absorption, says that this is the hour to test leadership, refers to the "weakness" of the government, and is concerned that the peace process might be collapsing. Never, he says, was so much dependent on the capability of the Israeli leadership.

Peres does not mention Rabin, but uses expressions whose inspiration cannot be doubted: "Criticism is not policy," he says about our relations with the Palestinian leadership, or "There are those who say that bureaucracy is to blame for everything," in reference to our economic weakness. If the Likud, headed by Binyamin Netanyahu, comes to power, it will not be due to the charisma of the Likud chairman, but to the government's mistakes.

Peres is waiting for 20 April, when the peace talks are due to be resumed. After that, he says, he will "explain" the additional steps that have to be taken. The question is whether he will explain them privately to the prime minister, as part of the true cooperation that has characterized relations between the two since the government was set up, or whether he will "explain" them openly to the media, the public, and the party. [passage omitted]

In the previous cabinet meeting, the impression was gained that something has happened to the government's determination to effect changes in the employment of Palestinians here. The prime minister spoke about "a separation." Do you support that?

[Peres] To be precise and truthful, the government had to provide an answer to the problem of personal safety. There was a feeling that personal safety in Israel had been totally undermined. It is not as though a new idea had suddenly cropped up to separate us in order create a new policy. The closure idea was aimed at stopping knifings because if they were to continue it would be impossible to advance the peace process since some of the perpetrators became deluded and thought that they had Israel under their thumb, and because skepticism grew in Israel as well.

In reference to the issue itself: As long as we are responsible for the territories, we cannot shirk responsibility for the security of the inhabitants of Israel, but we are also responsible for the economic well-being of the inhabitants of the territories. We cannot chose either this or that. As long as we have a presence in the territories we are responsible for everything. If we leave the territories, if we slide out of them, then we can have genuine separation. But if we remain the sole rulers in Gaza, we also remain responsible for what happens there—economically and not only securitywise—and not just outside it. Otherwise, we will stir up against us not just greater anger, but also much criticism. That also holds true for Judaea and Samaria.

I justify the means taken to bring back personal safety. I would not go beyond that because that would give us different problems.

[Shalev] But we have to bring back the Palestinian workers and the situation existing up until now.

[Peres] Everything is a question of time. For instance, if more jobs could be created in the territories, I would be in favor of that, but I have no illusions. It cannot be done in a single day or in one fell swoop. We have to act with a large measure of balance, using both the carrot and the stick. We have to rule and also to provide assistance, assure security, and be considerate.

[Shalev] Either you do not support the aim of separation or you do not think it is realistic.

[Peres] I do not think that the aim was separation for its own sake. The aim was separation in order to achieve

security. As long as we are the same government, how can we separate. We cannot become two governments, we remain one government. When two nations live together on the same territory, there are two possibilities: either to divide the territory or to divide the rule, either a functional division or a territorial solution. You cannot have neither and say maybe it should be this or that. It is therefore not a question of whether I am for or against it, I do not accept the term. How will we separate? Functionally? Territorially?

[Shalev] On several occasions in the past you expressed optimism about the peace process. You said that it will be a year for a breakthrough. Are you still optimistic?

[Peres] Yes, I am optimistic, but I know full well that much depends on us, much more than on others. Never before has so much depended on us as now, and never before has Israel had to take so many risks in order to move toward peace. In other words, while we have been self-oriented on security, I would say that we also have to be self-oriented on peace.

[Shalev] You speak about things depending on us despite your optimism, in other words are you qualifying your optimism?

[Peres] Yes, because I believe that polls sometimes do not have to be taken among the public, but among the leaders. The public has to question the leaders, not the other way round. There are times when the leadership must face the public and lead it because the decisions called for are very tough. I will give you an example of what I mean. We have a great deal of criticism about the Palestinians. You ask me: Is it justified? I say it is. But, and this is the big reservation: Criticism is not policy. We have a problem over how to conduct the negotiations with the Palestinian camp, which suffers from divisions, changes of opinion, and even terrorism. But that is what we have to live with. I do not expect it to change in the coming year, therefore it is like dealing with difficult relatives. What can we do? That is the situation we are facing. Therefore I say that so much depends on us, and that makes it so hard. We must bear the brunt of the negotiations.

[Shalev] You sound as though you are not convinced that the leadership will meet the challenge under the present conditions.

[Peres] First, I am not excluding myself from the overall leadership, therefore I am not calling on others to be tested, and what I am saying to you, I tell myself. If you like, it is simply an attempt to divulge how things look to me. I am not sending any messages to anybody.

[Shalev] Are there any steps that should be taken in the near future?

[Peres] Definitely, but we must not discuss them before 20 April. Anybody who talks about steps now could foil the start of talks on the 20th. While you can create attractions or illusions, this would only increase the level of existing hesitancy among the Palestinians. One must not forget dates when setting goals, and the upcoming date is only two weeks away. I think it is of supreme importance that the talks be resumed on 20 April because if they are put off, God only knows how long it will last. Beyond that, the postponement creates a momentum in unexpected directions.

I did not intend to sound arrogant about what I said about the Palestinian leadership and its problem. I try to understand the other side: If it takes insufficiently explained steps, it might lose control of its public. You could suddenly find the Palestinian population without a leadership, just as you could find the leadership without a population.

[Shalev] Would you currently estimate that if the Palestinians do not show up, the other parties will not come either?

[Peres] Yes, that is my assessment.

[Shalev] Has there been a change? After all, our assessment was different....

[Peres] There has definitely been a change. Jordan went as far as it was supposed to. It will not cross this point, because that would be taking the lead, and being first involves the risk of remaining alone. As for al-Asad, the sense of urgency that characterized al-Sadat's moves is not in evidence. It simply goes against his nature.

[Shalev] They say he is running out of time.

[Peres] All people consider themselves immortal, until something happens. Once de Gaulle said: "I promise you that I will not forget to die." He did not forget but he put it off for a long time. One cannot know anything at all about such things. At any rate, al-Asad's tactics up till now have been to try and wrest the fruits of negotiations before actually negotiating, while putting off the haggling over what we get until after he receives what he is entitled to. This, of course, makes the negotiations very difficult.

I find it hard to see King Husayn coming without the Palestinians, even though he said that the negotiations should be resumed. I also find it hard to see even Syria doing this today, although they hinted several times that they cannot link their future with that of the Palestinians.

[Shalev] So the process is in danger of collapsing?

[Peres] The process is now in a very tight spot. From the encouraging side of things, on the other hand, we have the fact that the Clinton administration has expressed its unequivocal support for the negotiations as well as for the solution to the deportee affair that was agreed upon between Israel and the United States. Second, even the Europeans are becoming more cognizant about the complexity of the negotiations. There was a time when Europe suffered from what was an almost simplistic, ideological slant toward the PLO. That is no longer the case.

[Shalev] Perhaps the Palestinian delegation should be strengthened by incorporating deportees or East Jerusalem residents, in accordance with the Labor party's declared positions? Maybe our adherence to the Madrid formula has bound our hands?

[Peres] In my opinion, there is no point in discussing any issue, whether substantive or procedural, before 20 April. Any issue discussed would serve as a pretext, and thus endanger the talks, whose composition and date have already been set. The talks are so imminent that one must be careful, out of a sense of responsibility, not to permit any deviations.

[Shalev] Is there no contradiction between Israel's complaints regarding the weakness of the Palestinian delegation and the fact that it is we ourselves who decide its composition?

[Peres] Yes, but there is no certainty that a different composition would reduce that weakness. This weakness also reflects something. It does not stem from the delegation's composition but is rather a result of the overall situation.

[Shalev] We have reached a dead end with the Syrians. Each side demands that the other make the first step forward. How will we resolve this imbroglio?

[Peres] From a completely objective standpoint, I believe that it would be easier for al-Asad to specify his concept of peace than for us to detail what we mean by withdrawal. What risk would he be taking? Would Damascus be in danger if an Israeli Embassy was established there? If Israel withdraws from parts of the Golan Heights it is giving up something very tangible. I also think that his position is strange: he is asking for everything. He says that he is also ready to give everything, but what he calls everything is only part of the story. Therefore, in my opinion, there is a need for more details on Syria's part, if it seeks to promote the negotiations. There are other parties that will probably press for more details.

[Shalev] Pressure or mediate?

[Peres] I do not know the difference. They will not hold a gun to anyone's head. They will make suggestions. The Americans have already hinted that they wish to become a full partner, bridge builders and "facilitators." At this point, there is a certain degree of toughness in the Syrian position, not only when one compares what each side is supposed to reveal but also with regard to the fact that everything is managed by a very narrow circle of people. When we held negotiations with Egypt, a great many elements - both non-Egyptian and non-Israeli—were involved, as well as almost all the Egyptian and Israeli cabinet members, the press, Barbara Walters, and almost everyone else. I have already said that the difference between Egypt and Syria is like the difference between a pyramid and an antenna. In Egypt, you have a pyramid structure. It has a slope but you can get to its top. Syria has one man at the top, no one else can reach him, and he is the only man making statements or sending off signals, which are not always either clear or reasonable. At the same time, there have been some encouraging developments in Syria, which I would not dismiss. One of the more significant developments is the creation of a Syrian middle class. Also, the younger generation is apparently listening to foreign radio stations and watching foreign television despite all the government prohibitions, and the media has tremendous influence in today's world. It was the media, to a great extent, which removed communism from power. Today, in fact, television serves as a kind of Trojan horse in everybody's home. One hears news that the authorities do not like, and above all, television does not operate like the authorities, but more like air, in the sense that it can get through cracks in the wall, climb over fences, and circumvent censorship.

Sometimes I find myself thinking about the nature of the Arabs and about terrorism. People talk about 100 years of terrorism, 100 years of violence, and 100 years of the same old disappointments. Why do we believe all these things? It is so easy to fall into the same old rut, to fall back on our past experiences and assumptions. I ask myself: Have the Arabs changed? Have we changed? Have the relations between us changed? The answer is no. Nothing has changed except for one thing. The world has changed, and the world will triumph over all of us and over all of our old habits. This is because the world has already knocked down many premises, from communism in Russia to apartheid in South Africa, much faster than we thought. We are living in a world where tempo is more important than size.

They say socialism is dead: the truth is that the bourgeoisie is dead. Nothing is built either on stability or on accumulating possessions. The world changes daily and one is in constant competition. Today's yardstick is not the size of one's territory or population. What determines the condition of people today is the size of their income. Whoever makes more money can afford better education, better housing, better health services, a higher quality of life, and greater freedom. One of things setting rich and poor people apart is the quality of the environment. Rich people live in clean environments, whereas the poor crowd together in cities under insufferable conditions. Once cities were centers of beauty, today modern cities are breeding grounds for crime and violence. Therefore, the problem all of us face, including Israel, is how to catch up with the standard of living abroad. The only way to do that is by changing the regional economy and its relationship with the world economy as a whole. It is not a question of less bureaucracy. It is a question of creative talent, of developing new products and services, and coming up with new attractions.

The crumbling of the ideologies which prevailed in the old world order confronted the Arabs and Islam with a very large problem. If I am to take a more profound approach, we all suffer from a certain degree of racism or condescension. We were all sure that there was a Third

World, that the white race actually had an advantage over the black, oriental, or colored races. This assumption blew up in our faces. Suddenly the big economic successes belong to the black or oriental races, while the Third World disintegrated fairly quickly.

It is interesting to note that almost no Muslim states have enjoyed great economic success. Even in the same region, in Asia itself, one can discern between those who believe in Confucius and the disciples of Muhammad. In other words, there is also something in the culture, not just the economy. The very fact that you adopt a fatalistic approach, saying that everything comes from God, diminishes man's role in the world and weakens his initiative. Education in the Muslim world has a very strong religious emphasis, to the neglect of scientific and technological subjects, which is not true in the rest of the world, which is more open.

[Shalev] In your opinion, does the election of Binyamin Netanyahu change anything in the government's feeling, does it give the government a sense of urgency? What is your attitude to the "Americanization" of the Israeli political system?

[Peres] I would very much like to hope it will make a difference. Has it already? I do not know. I feel a tone of contempt, which I can understand, but I regret this because Netanyahu's power is measured by the government's weakness. It is not Netanyahu who feeds the Likud's chance of returning to power; rather, the only true food is our errors. This is true worldwide: It is governments which fall rather than oppositions which win. In this regard, television is undoubtedly powerful, but it does not solve problems. In my opinion, as a bystander, Netanyahu delivered to his voters a message with which they are not familiar: I will return you to power. This is immensely attractive, of course. This is an opportunity and we must not underestimate opportunities. Indeed, we do not have a contract with anybody that the opportunity will be missed, just as Netanyahu does not have a contract with anybody that the opportunity will yield positive results for him.

If we make peace, this whole thing will be meaningless. It is neither the age, nor the profile, but rather the record which is the thing that ultimately determines matters. If we have nothing to show but ourselves, this can be good only for a beauty contest. The main discussion, in about three years, will focus on the government's series of successes and failures.

[Shalev] You do not sound entirely satisfied with the government's performance?

[Peres] A government member, too, despite his duty of loyalty to the government, should think in a critical manner. The difference is that I do not direct the criticism outwardly. In everything I said I have included myself too. I tried to relay a critical assessment of the situation, which includes me too. I do not shirk responsibility for the situation. I do not say that others are to blame.

[Shalev] Critical thoughts sometimes also have practical implications, such as decisions on a change of direction.

[Peres] Absolutely. At this stage, two weeks before the resumption of the peace talks, I view this as the main thing. I hope we will go through these two weeks correctly. Later, I think it will be necessary to make additional moves, some of which I have explained, while some others I will explain at a later date.

Rabin To Meet Mubarak in al-Ismailiyah 14 Apr

TA1104044493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will take place in al-Ismailiyah next Wednesday [14 April]. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic reporter says that the details of the meeting between the two leaders were finalized last night in contacts between Egyptian and Israeli officials.

Cabinet Approves Meeting

TA1104132093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] In today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the ministers about his planned meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Egypt this week. The cabinet approved the trip.

Rabin Spokesman Comments on Meeting

NC1104072493 Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Jerusalem, April 11 (AFP) - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in al-Ismailiyah on the Suez Canal on Wednesday, the premier's spokesman said Sunday.

"The main purpose of the meeting would be to discuss ways to resume the Middle East peace talks and to give new momentum to the peace process."

The Palestinians have refused to attend a ninth round of bilateral peace talks scheduled for April 20 in Washington until a solution is found to Israel's deportation of 400 Palestinian fundamentalists on December 17.

"This was an Egyptian invitation and request which the prime minister accepted immediately," spokesman Gad Ben Ari told AFP.

Rabin met Mubarak in Cairo shortly after taking office in July.

Security Forces Uncover PFLP-GC Terror Group in W. Bank

TA1104105293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol clashed with an armed terrorist, a member of the 'Izz -al-Din

al-Qassam gang, in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp. They chased after him, hit him, and detained him. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF imposed a curfew on the camp, and is continuing to search for wanted men and those who help them.

The Shin Bet and the Police uncovered a terrorist band whose members are suspected of murdering the prostitute Sara Sharon whose body was found three months ago in Holon. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the three belong to Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian-General Command. They live in the Shu'fat and Qalandiyah refugee camps. They reconstructed the action and their interrogation is continuing. Further arrests are expected.

The security services last night detained two armed wanted men in the Janin area. They were captured in Khirbat al-Tayyibah. They had a Carl Gustav submachine gun and a revolver in their possession. They two, from Silat al-Harithiyah and Buruqin, belong to the Black Panther band. They are suspected of attacks and violent interrogation of Arabs suspected of aiding Israel.

Arab Killed by Civilian in Jerusalem; Captures Reported

TA1204044093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] In the Jerusalem suburb of Neve Ya'aqov, a Jew shot and killed an Arab during an attempted car break-in. The Jew told police that he spotted three Arabs who were trying to break into a car and then fled from the scene. The Jew said he saw one of the Arabs point a weapon, or a similar-looking object at him, so he opened fire. The dead man's two accomplices escaped, and the Jew has been arrested and his revolver confiscated.

In the territories, security forces yesterday captured seven men suspected of terrorist attacks. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

In the Gaza Strip, a soldier seized an Arab who lightly wounded him in a knife attack. The incident took place in the village of al-Burayj in the central area of the Strip. The soldier was treated on the spot.

In Khan Yunus in the southern edge of the Gaza Strip, soldiers spotted two suspicious-looking women and gave chase when they fled. The two turned out to be men masquerading as women. Security forces say the two were members of the Red Eagle band of Popular Front terror organization. They had been on the wanted list for more than a year on suspicion of a number of attacks against Israeli forces and the murder of fellow Palestinians they believed were aiding Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

Rocks Injure Security Guard; 2 Wounded in West Bank Clash

TA0904173193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] An Israeli security guard traveling in a gasoline truck was injured this afternoon when rocks were thrown at the truck in the Ramallah industrial area. He was taken to hospital, where his condition was described as moderate. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says a second security guard opened fire at the stone throwers, but no injuries were reported.

Two residents of the village of Buruqin, near Janin, were wounded this afternoon by Army fire. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the soldiers opened fire after their patrol was stoned. An 18-year-old Palestinian was critically wounded in the incident and evacuated by helicopter to hospital. A bystander was also wounded. The soldiers captured one of the stone throwers after a chase and held him for questioning.

A 58-year-old resident of a village in the Qabatiyah area, south of Janin, was today sentenced to 10 months in prison. He was convicted of staying illegally in Israel during the closure of the territories. He was also carrying a knife when he was caught near Tirat Hakarmel last week. Under interrogation, he said he was a shepherd and did not know about the closure of the territories.

A curfew remains in effect on Khan Yunus for the second day. Soldiers from the Golani and Giv'ati Brigades are searching for wanted terrorists and arms in the area. Yesterday they found two large caches of weapons.

Crown Prince Visits Wounded Swiss Tourist

JN1004185293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] This morning, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, accompanied by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, visited King Husayn Medical Center to learn about the health of a Swiss tourist who experienced a regrettable incident yesterday. His highness wished the woman a speedy recovery, safety, and a pleasant stay in Jordan.

The Swiss tourist, accompanied by two colleagues, were in a rented car when the incident occurred on the Amman-Aqaba road. The Swiss tourist said that a man tried to stop the rented car in which she was traveling. When the car did not stop, he shot the tourist with a small pistol, wounding her in the hand. The tourist added that she did not know the reason the person, whom she described as mad, shot her.

Meanwhile, the doctor supervising the tourist's medical treatment said that her condition is reassuring, that she is not seriously wounded, and that she can leave the hospital in a few days. [Amman Radio in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 10 April in a similar report adds: The assailant who fired on the Swiss woman's car was arrested tonight and has admitted to his actions.]

King Sends Message to Rafsanjani on Bosnia

LD1104164593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan, in a message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, asked for a joint measure by Islamic countries to end the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to ease the suffering of this country's people. King Husayn's message, in part, says:

Under the tragic and critical circumstances confronting the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in the face of the indifference of international organizations vis-a-vis the crimes committed by the Serbs, I deemed it necessary to talk to Your Excellency on the plight of this Muslim nation, which is subjected to enormous hardship. I am certain that Your Excellency is also concerned to the same degree and that you are doing your best to assist the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and that you sympathize with us on this issue.

In view of the existing possibilities, we should strive jointly to reduce the burden and suffering of this people.

Another part of the message says: Aggression against Muslim groups or Islamic centers, and Israel's overt stand—wishing to strengthen its alliance and cooperation with the global superpower in order to confront the revolutionary Muslims—are all part of an extensive conspiracy against Islam and the Muslims.

The concluding part of the message says: The Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization tried to make the United Nations take steps to halt attacks and aggression against the defenseless Muslims; however, the stance of the UN Security Council is doubtful and unstable.

Reportage on Arab Labor Conference; Conclusion

Saudi Minister Meets Counterparts

LD0704224993 Riyadh SPA in English 1929 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Amman, April 7, SPA—Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Muhammad al-Fayiz met here today with GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministers of labour and social affairs.

He also met with ministers of labour of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Morocco.

He exchanged views with the ministers on topics on the agenda of the Arab Labour Conference, currently in progress here.

UAE, Bahrain, Qatar Ministers Depart

JN0904204693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The labor ministers of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Bahrain, and Qatar left Amman today after taking part in the meetings of the 20th session of the Arab Labor Conference held in Amman. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of labor and chairman of the conference, bid farewell to the ministers.

The UAE and Bahraini labor ministers made statements to our correspondent Shakir Maharmah.

[Begin recording] [UAE Labor Minister Sayf al-Jarwan] The 20th session held in Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is one of the most successful sessions to date—a session which dealt with the Arab Labor Bureau. This is especially so since the session was held amid extraodinary circumstances facing the Arab nation. We consider this session a show of Arab solidarity. Its success is attributed to the fact that it was opened under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn who made a pan-Arab speech in which he addressed the nation and Arab solidarity.

[Bahraini Labor Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah] As I leave Jordan, my fraternal country, I cannot but sincerely thank the fraternal Jordanian Government for its cordial hospitality of our conference. I wish our conference success and luck. It was a great honor for this conference to be patronized by His Majesty King Husayn. Thank you. [end recording]

Omani Minister Leaves 10 Apr

JN1004190993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Muhammad Bin-Salim al-'Isa'i, Omani social affairs and labor minister, left Amman this morning after participating in the 20th session of the Arab Labor Conference. Social Development Minister Dr. Amin al-Mashaqibah saw him off at the airport. Prior to his departure, the Omani minister talked to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Isa'i] In fact, the factors required to make the conference a success were present before the conference began in this Arab country which we all love and appreciate. Naturally, the first among these factors was King Husayn's patronage, his opening of the proceedings, and his comprehensive pan-Arab speech. This speech specified the basic pillars from which joint Arab action should proceed. Moreover, His Excellency brother and colleague [Jordanian Labor Minister] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti played a prominent role in running the conference sessions. Al- Kabariti's wisdom and good character met with everyone's admiration and appreciation. He also enjoyed the respect of all delegation heads at the conference.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Minister: How did you view the general atmosphere of the conference and the extent of cohesion of the Arab ranks at the conference?

[Al-'Isa'i] I can say that the conference was a successful because amity and understanding prevailed in all sessions. Nothing disturbed this conference. [end recording]

Ministers' Statement on Israel

JN1204091493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Apr 93 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—The Arab labor conference has condemned Israeli suppression, terrorism, and collective punishment practiced against the legitimate and just struggle waged by the workers and people of Palestine to achieve liberation and independence. This came in the final statement issued by the Arab labor ministers at the conclusion of their conference in Amman last night.

The statement adds: The Arab labor conference, which convened in Amman, proudly followed up the escalating popular Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its 65th month with even greater determination and firmness. The conference also denounced the expulsion of Palestinian citizens, which is a violation of international charters and norms. The conference called for the immediate return of all expellees in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799 and praised the distinguished stand of the Lebanese Government in its dealing with the issue of deportees.

The statement urges the Arab governments to facilitate the transfer of the amount deducted from the salaries of Palestinian workers in all Arab countries, to the PLO to support the intifadah and help it achieve its objectives.

The statement voices deep concern over the double standards used in dealing with people's issues and the selectivity in implementing international legitimacy resolutions. The statement appeals to the major powers in the Security Council to observe the principles of justice, follow a single standard in implementing international criteria, and lift the blockade on all Arab people.

The conferees stressed their support for the Lebanese national struggle in southern Lebanon. They also commended the resistance of the Syrian Arab people in the occupied Golan.

The conference supported the good offices aimed at achieving reconciliation and peace in the Republic of Sudan. It called on all Sudanese parties to resort to wisdom and farsightedness, respond to reason to protect Sudan's unity—people and land—and to pursue dialogue.

The conferees also voiced concern over the terrible ordeal to which sisterly Somalia was exposed as a result of internecine disputes. They affirmed the unity of the Somali territory and people and voiced their support for the peaceful efforts exerted to maintain this unity.

The conferees congratulated the people of sisterly Eritrea on the achievement of their freedom and identity, affirming the Arab identity of Eritrea and its people's pan-Arab affiliation.

The conferees called for continuing the economic blockade on the racist regime in South Africa until a national democratic transitional government is established.

The final session of the conference convened at 1800 yesterday under the chairmanship of [Jordanian] Labor Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

New Ground, Air Force Commanders Named

JN0904103793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Amman—A royal decree has been issued appointing Staff Major General Muhammad Hammad al-Mawanis as commander of the Ground Forces to replace Staff Major General Salim al-Turk, who was retired.

Another royal decree was issued appointing pilot Staff Brigadier General 'Awni Bilal as Royal Air Force commander to replace Lieutenant General Ihsan Shurdum, who was appointed an adviser to his majesty the king.

Population Conference Endorses Amman Declaration

JN0804195593 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The Arab Population Conference has endorsed the second Amman declaration on population and development in the Arab world.

Conference chairman, [Jordanian] Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, briefed reporters on the declaration approved at a closing session of the four-day conference here in Amman. He said the document included a set of general principles and recommendations pertaining to human development, population and environment, the distribution of population and urban development, international immigration, the woman and development, mother and child health, as well as family planning.

The declaration states that peace is a fundamental requirement to comprehensive development and that continued Israeli occupation of Arab land is a major obstacle to just peace.

The final statement reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to end the occupation, establish an independent state on its national soil, and resist expulsion and arrest. The conference noted that human development is a starting point towards achieving social welfare in the Arab world and asserted the woman's role in the administration of resources, labor, and national development.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for New Delhi

JN0904202193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpt] A Jordanian parliamentary delegation, headed by House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, left Amman for New Delhi today to take part in the meetings of the 89th conference of the International Labor Union which opens there on 12 April.

During the eight-day conference, Dr. 'Arabiyat will deliver Jordan's speech which will deal with developments in the Arab and international arenas. [passage omitted]

Al-Rantisi Criticizes al-Husayni on Refugee Issues

NC1104210093 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, April 11 (AFP)—The spokesman of the Palestinian deportees in south Lebanon on Sunday criticized Faysal al-Husayni, the leading Palestinian in the Israeli-occupied territories. Al-Husayni has "given Israel the means to violate U.N. Security Council Resolution 799," charged 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi at the deportees camp in Marj al-Zuhur, referring to a statement Saturday from al-Husayni.

In an interview with Israeli radio, al-Husayni said the immediate return of the 400 Palestinians expelled from the Israeli-occupied territories was "not a condition for resuming" peace talks scheduled for April 20 in Washington. But al-Husayni cautioned there were "several points to clear up with Israel" before the Palestinians decide on whether to attend the talks.

Resolution 799 called for Israel to allow the immediate return of the deportees, expelled in mid-December. The Jewish state has offered to take back 100 Palestinians immediately and the rest by the end of the year.

"Faysal al-Husayni and the rest of the Palestinian delegation (to the peace talks) do not represent the Palestinian people and do not have the right to speak in our name," insisted al-Rantisi.

Many of the deportees, including al-Rantisi, are members or sympathizers of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas, which is opposed to the peace talks with Israel.

Al-Husayni has accepted an Israeli offer for him to sit at the negotiating table, ending a ban on his participation in the official Palestinian delegation because he is a resident of Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem. He told AFP in Tunis on Sunday that the Palestinians in holding up their decision whether to take part in the Washington talks were seeking an Israeli pledge to renounce expulsions altogether and not just return the 400 at Marj al-Zuhur.

Hizballah Calls al-Husayni 'Agent of Israel'

NC1204065793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The enemy radio has reported that Israel, via the United States, conveyed several proposals to the Palestinians to encourage them to return to the negotiating table. The proposals provide for allowing a large group of deportees to return, reuniting numerous Palestinian families, and giving some of them building permits in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Demonstrating that he is an agent of Israel, Faysal al-Husayni said Tel Aviv has taken a major step on the path toward recognizing the facts. But he said this development is still not sufficient to guarantee Palestinian participation in the next round of peace negotiations.

Al-Husayni explained that he can now join the Palestinian delegation to the talks and carry out supervisory and coordinating tasks between the Palestinian delegations to the bilateral and multilateral talks. He added that Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will continue to lead the delegation to the bilateral talks and Muhammad Hallaj will continue to chair the delegation to the multilaterals. He concluded his statement by declaring that both are competent negotiators and accurately reflect the Palestinian position.

* Hizballah Cuts Supplies to Deportees

93P5138A London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Mar 93 p 5

[Report by Basim Hajj]

[Excerpts] Marj al-Zuhur—Yesterday security sources noted that fundamentalist, Iranian-funded Hizballah stopped supplying the 396 Palestinian deportees with food last week due to differences in their [the deportees'] ranks. [passage omitted] Deportees—who refused to have their names published—affirmed that that Hizballah fighters, who had smuggled food to the deportees' camp on pack animals and donkeys on a daily basis since the first days of the deportation, had cut off all supplies. They added that the camp had used up all their bread but that the deportees were able to buy some vegetables and eggs from the Lebanese villagers. The security sources said that Hizballah cut off supplies after differences broke out in the camp between members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, which is close to Iran, because the Hamas members did not participate in a Jerusalem Day march called by Iran on 19 March.

Last week, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the spokeman for Islamic Jihad's deportees, accused Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, one of the founders of Hamas and spokesman for its elements in the camp, of practicing intellectual terrorism against his supporters. Since that time, they have each held separate press conferences.

However, the deportees said that contacts are being made to mend the differences between the two men, and they hope to resolve the conflict soon. The security sources explained that Hizballah is exerting pressure by giving al-Shami a greater role in decision-making in the camp. Hizballah refused to confirm or deny supplying the deportees with provisions. [passage omitted]

Commentary: Arab Rulers Seek 'Any Solution'

NC1204085193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Station commentary: "Is the Issue one of Name?"]

[Excerpts] The West Bank and Gaza Strip remain closed off, besieged. Rabin speaks of a permanent separation to reduce a foreign presence. Thus spoke Rabin to some of his racist kin, adding: We must not keep the Palestinians here. We will not allow the Palestinians to multiply like insects among us.

This was a filthy statement reeking of racial segregation and the complex of arrogance. He said: We will not allow the Palestinians to multiply like insects among us. Despite this, indeed on the basis of this, the Arab negotiators are united in their decision to go to Washington on 20 April. [passage omitted]

The Arabs have gathered and given their stamp of approval for a new round of bilateral negotiations, accepting a half or quarter solution, indeed any solution to their chronic problems with those inside and outside, their problem with their people, and their problem with their nation's historic foe. Since their minds are hired by the Americans, they have made a losing bet and sought the assistance of the enemy abroad to suppress their people and cancel their role. [passage omitted]

The Arab leaders were deceived and consequently strayed and are now trying to hoodwink their people thus: Yes, Rabin has backed down and allowed 100 deportees to return and reduced the remainder's expulsion period. So it is no longer a question of why and by what right did Rabin uproot 400 cultured family men and cast them onto the territory of a country they had not chosen and that refused to accept them. The question has become: Who will lead the Palestinian team to the table of concessions—Faysal al-Husayni or Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi? [passage omitted]

The Zionists continue their old policy, creating faits accomplis while our rulers busy themselves with formalities and details. The major ruler recently went to Washington to convince it of the Arab view but came back convinced of the U.S. view. The smallest ruler sought refuge in a private visit to London to sniff the wind and discover where to hide. The other rulers pretend to be clever, watching, and cautiously moving along the route that al-Sadat traveled.

The view from the rulers' palaces and their sentries' watchtowers is one of calm and dreams of peace. The view from the villages of the oppressed is one of searing flame meant for the most wretched. The nation's schizophrenia will not last. All it takes is one cry to awaken the nations, who will then take their oppressors to task.

Syria's Khaddam, Delegation Arrive, Hold Talks

Khaddam Meets Officials

NC1004200493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] A meeting was held this evening at the home of Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul in 'Ali al-Nahri. Present at the meeting were Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and the Syrian delegation led by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Information Minister Michel Samahah joined the meeting later. At 1845, Speaker Birri left the meeting and the Syrian delegation left for Damascus, while Prime Minister al-Hariri and Ministers Dallul and Samahah continued the meeting.

Khaddam Comments on Peace Process

JN1104081893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stressed that Syria will not take a unilateral stand on participating in the ninth round of the peace negotiations in Washington. He praised the strides achieved by the peace process in Lebanon, and noted that Syrian-Vatican relations are good.

The Syrian vice president arrived at the president's house in Hawsh al-Umara' in Zahlah at 1400 today at the head of a delegation that includes General Hikmat al-Shihabi, the Syrian Army's chief of staff; Major General 'Isa Shidyaq, the commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon; and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, the head of military intelligence of the Syrian Army deployed in Lebanon.

The Syrian vice president spoke to the correspondents on arrival. He said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Do you think the region is moving toward peace?

[Khaddam] We hope that the region is moving toward peace. But we have to wait for the outcome of the contacts that the Arab parties will hold with the U.S. Administration. In light of these contacts, the foreign ministers of the concerned parties will meet in Damascus to discuss these contacts and decide on the next step.

[Correspondent] What is the status ofthese contacts in your opinion?

[Khaddam] They will begin in the next few days.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the stages completed by the peace process in Lebanon?

[Khaddam] Lebanon has made great strides, the most important steps on the road to achieving peace and national accord. If we go back to the situation two years ago and compare that situation with the existing one, then we can understand the importance of the historic steps taken by Lebanon toward peace, stability, and

security. Lebanon will continue this process. We believe that the Lebanese people, with their resources and determination to overcome the negative and painful stage of the civil war, will succeed in fulfilling all their objectives.

[Correspondent] It has been reported that you have addressed a message to Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr. Is this true and what are the contents of this message?

[Khaddam] There are always Lebanese brothers who come to Damascus and meet with me. They convey the patriarch's greetings and wishes. Naturally, I reciprocate these wishes. We hope that everyone, regardless of whether they are in this or that area and regardless of their positions, will help strengthen the accord and peace process in fraternal Lebanon.

[Correspondent] The West has hinted that it might impose conditions on the Arabs to enter into the negotiations. Is there anything new in the Arab stand?

[Khaddam] No one can impose conditions on the Arabs or, at least, on Syria. We know what we want. We really want to reach a just and comprehensive peace that leads to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and ensures recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. In this context, we accepted the Security Council resolution and the U.S. initiative launched by President Bush to achieve peace in the region. Our actions are always carried out in light of this initiative and these objectives. No one can impose anything on us that conflicts with our interests, principles, and objectives.

[Correspondent] How do you view the U.S. role in the region, especially following Christopher's tour and his statement that the United States will be a full partner?

[Khaddam] This has to be assessed in light of U.S. actions in the coming stage. We hope that this role will be positive and based on honesty and serious commitment to the Security Council resolutions and that the United States will act fairly with all the parties.

[Correspondent] The deportees issue remains, and so does the Palestinian decision not to attend the ninth round. What will Syria's stand be?

[Khaddam] Syria will not take a unilateral stand. All the issues will be discussed within the Arab framework. Every issue will be discussed within this framework. We will all be committed to implementing whatever we agree on as Arab parties.

[Correspondent] Will the negotiations be held on time?

[Khaddam] This will be decided at the next foreign ministers' meeting.

[Correspondent] Will the deportee question be resolved shortly?

[Khaddam] Contacts are under way, and we have to await the results.

[Correspondent] Following the visit of the Vatican's foreign minister, how do you assess Syria's relations with the Vatican?

[Khaddam] They are good relations. The atmosphere of the talks was a good and there was an identity of views on a number of issues raised. Thank you. [end recording]

Khaddam, Delegation Depart

NC1004165593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian talks concluded this evening in Zahlah. The talks grouped the Lebanese president, Chamber of Deputies speaker, and prime minister with a Syrian delegation led by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The Syrian delegation left Zahlah at 1815 this evening. In addition to Khaddam, the delegation included General Hikmat al-Shihabi, the Syrian Army's chief of staff; Major General 'Isa Shidyaq, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon; and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the military intelligence of the Syrian troops operating in Lebanon.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi hosted a luncheon in honor of the Syrian guests that was attended by Speaker Birri and Prime Minister al-Hariri. Ministers Michel Samahah and Muhsin Dallul and Deputy Speaker Elie al-Firzli joined the meeting later.

Hizballah: Mubarak 'Appointed Himself God'

NC1004100493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0647 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Station commentary: Mubarak, King of Brokers]

[Text] When the desire for trade takes hold of a person who lacks the necessary capital, this person eventually takes on the role of brokerage; a type of trade that doesn't require capital.

Husni Mubarak is probably the single most prominent broker of our age. He wears himself down by travelling here and there. But what merchandise is he trading?

Egypt has lost its funds, its role, and the weight it used to carry thanks to Camp David. Mubarak can only trade in brother Arabs' stands. He goes to Washington to convince its administration of the Arab viewpoint and comes back with an American viewpoint to promote among Arab brothers. He carries with him the issue of the deportees and comes back burdened with the worries of terrorism, the Iranian threats, and the political and economic dilemma haunting his regime and Egypt.

It is unfortunate that Mubarak has no goods to promote except to incite others against the sons of his own people. He hands over some to the American justice as a token of friendship and willingness to cooperate. He promises to play a principal role in fighting Islamism—the American-Zionist-Egyptian common concern.

If fighting Islam, Islamic revival, and its sources is one of the pillars of the prospective regional order, and Mubarak is applying for a leading role in that order. He presents his vision, trying to appear as a good player. We do not know whether Mubarak is acting as the bayonet of Arab demands vis-a-vis the Zionist intransigence and the American indifference, or as a bayonet aiming American pressures at Arabs. If the only role he can play is the godfather of American ideas, wouldn't it be better for Mubarak to relinquish his role and mission to avoid blemishing Egypt's history and aggravating the tragedy?

The only thing Mubarak and Clinton could agree on was fighting the Iranian threat. Will Mubarak present this outcome as a triumph, a glorious outcome of his visit to Washington? There is nothing worse than approaching Americans with a request for help in oppressing the people, warning them that Iran's success in exporting its revolution to Egypt would mean that nothing stands in the way of the fundamentalist tide in the future. By this, Mubarak means that the Islamists' success in toppling his regime and instituting Islamic rule in Egypt will help build an Islamic bulwark in the western sector of the Islamic world, in addition to the existing bulwark in the eastern sector—Iran. This is bound to help surround the region with two fundamentalist systems and, accordingly, put Israel at the mercy of Islamists to the east and west. Should that happen, Israeli destiny, Western and American interests, and their associated agent regimes would all be endangered.

In view of the imminent danger Mubarak senses, it is natural for the Arab-Israeli dispute to retreat to the background, making the conflict with Israel over its occupation of the lands and its deportation of the Palestinians a secondary issue that can be overlooked or tackled quietly and tolerantly, away from rigorous and rigid stands.

According to Mubarak, and in view of the imminent dangers, the deportees can wait and those subjected to oppression in the occupied territories can be patient, because Israel is not an enemy but a friend that has misbehaved; Iran is the enemy, because it plans to possess weapons and seeks to devour the region.

Mubarak has appointed himself God and started to bring people to account for their intentions rather than for their behavior. To him, Israel meant well but erred, while Iran harbors evil intentions not yet realized. Mubarak is fully convinced that this age is America's and that you can have no role unless you are American. Therefore, he tries to employ his capabilities and energies in the service of the new international order, hoping that he will go down in history as great.

Head of Peace Delegation Leaves for U.S.

NC1104193193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, left Beirut this evening for Washington via Paris for prior consultations with U.S. officials on overcoming the obstacles facing the ninth round of peace talks. He declined to comment, but said: I will return soon to take part in the Damascus meeting of the cordon states.

Junblatt Criticizes UN Over Displaced Palestinians

NC1204072993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt has criticized United Nations policy, saying: It is necessary to pause and consider the United Nations' role objectively and conscientiously. We must examine how UN missions are frustrated, apparently with the concurrence of some major powers. Current events in the former Yugoslavia constitute the biggest scandal and biggest treachery against Muslims and humanity. Flimsy pretexts are used to explain the reluctance to assist the Muslims either by halting the Serbian aggression or helping the Muslims to defend themselves. Add to this U.S.-Russian collusion to eliminate the Muslim presence from Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Junblatt added: This is why I do not accept the pretexts and excuses used by UNRWA's [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] representative in Lebanon. If they have all this money to squander on unworthy projects, they can assist the Ministry of Refugee Affairs in giving Palestinian refugees from Tall al-Za'tar, al- Dubbiyah, and other areas the minimum monetary assistance. The ministry will contact political circles to find an appropriate solution for the 6,000 Palestinian families displaced by various wars and now living in Lebanese houses. [passage omitted]

Three Rockets Miss Border Strip 11 Apr

NC1204092693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] According to a security source in al-Nabatiyah, three rockets were fired on Israeli positions inside the border strip last night but accidentally fell in the Yuhmur's quarries area outside the strip.

Another security source in the south reported that the bodies of two Islamic Resistance fighters were found on the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah. They died in a recent bombardment of the area. Contacts are under way with the Red Cross to evacuate the bodies.

Army Detains 48 in Ba'labakk

NC0804204893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] An Army force drawn from the 1st Brigade, the al-Biqa' Intelligence Branch, and the Military Police, supported by a Syrian unit, conducted a large search operation in al-'Ayn and its vicinity in B'alabakk at dawn today. The force arrested 48 people, most of whom were wanted in connection with various crimes. The forces confiscated a number of stolen cars in addition to personal weapons, ammunition, and narcotics. The detainees will be examined by the military police in Beirut and then by the judicial and security officials of the Internal Security forces.

Foreign Minister Meets With Visiting Officials

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official

JN0804163693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this morning Mohammad Jawid Zarif, assistant to the Iranian foreign minister for international affairs. [passage omitted]

The meeting evaluated the results of the Asian meeting on human rights held in the Thai capital of Bangkok between 29 March and 3 April.

Viewpoints were also exchanged on topics on the agenda of the 21st conference of Islamic foreign ministers, scheduled to be held in Karachi, the Pakistani capital, from 25 to 29 April.

Talks also dealt with bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN0804182993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this evening a U.S. Congressional delegation led by David McCroy.

The meeting was attended by the dirèctor of the America Department [at the Foreign Ministry].

Talks dealt with the international situation, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Rights Bodies Denounce Torture in Jails

JN0904203193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The World Human Rights Federation, as well as the Organization for Defending Basic Liberties, Democracy, and Human Rights in Syria, have issued statements received by AFP, expressing their concern over the deterioration of the conditions of the prisoners held in Syrian jails.

The statements said that toward the end of 1992, several prisoners died due to mistreatment, while others died under torture. In its statement, the world human rights federation condemned torture and asked that nongovernmental organizations be allowed to visit Syrian detention centers as soon as possible.

Commentary Reiterates Stand on Peace

JN1004095793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While Arab and international efforts intensify to resume the peace talks in Washington on clear bases that guarantee their success, the Israeli rulers continue to raise obstacles, place the occupied Arab territories under military siege, and submit them to searches and storming operations.

Yesterday, the Israeli forces killed a 13-year old Palestinian girl in front of her house only to spread terorism on a large scale. They also opened fire on hundreds of Palestinians, wounding scores of them and placing large numbers in detention camps. For his part, Yitzhaq Rabin announced that the only thing that will secure stability and tranquility for the Israelis is by keeping the Palestinians away from them. He was clearly referring to the security cordon imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Rabin vehemently defended the policy of racial segregation he is adopting and called on the Israelis not to employ Arab labor.

The Palestinians will be the happiest people if the Israeli occupation forces leave their land. However, the Tel Aviv rulers absolutely do not want this. They promote the policy of racial segretation while maintaining the occupation, pursuing the confiscation of land, the building settlements, and all the fierce and demented repression that this entails.

Yitzhaq Rabin admitted at the Knesset that only a political solution can secure stability and tranquility. But Rabin, like the former Israeli leaders, wants a distorted and lopsided solution that cannot stand in the face of developments. He wants a settlement that maintains the occupation and the settlements, and gives Israel a free hand on the issue of sovereignty and security. The self administrative rule proposed to the Palestinians is actually a legalization of the occupation, an overt attempt to deal a blow against the intifadah and contain it, a serious infringement of the Palestinian right to their land and homeland, and an explicit violation of the UN resolutions. What Rabin proposes on the other fronts of the conflict are also lopsided solutions that maintain the occupation and do not fulfill the Arab conditions. Syria and all the others have wondered about why Rabin insists on a peace in installments while all the opportunities are there for a comprehensive, just, and stable peace in the Middle East.

Rabin's security claims do not stand the test. The deportation of hundreds of Palestinians which he views as a decisive blow against the intifadah has further inflamed it. Also, the lopsided solutions he proposes cannot produce peace, or attain stability. They will only further excacerbate the situation. The Arab parties concerned with the Washington talks have announced that such solutions are rejected and there is no other alternative to

the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The racial segregation policy has not brought about security for Israel. All the policies of repression, persecution, and terrorism have failed and the policy of racial segregation will fail in its turn as it had failed in South Africa after it was carried out over scores of years.

Peace alone guarantees security and stability. By peace, we mean a just and comprehensive peace that restores rights to those who have a claim to them, terminates the occupation, returns the land to its owners, and enables the Palestinian people to determine their fate and map out their future.

Rabin is deluded if he believes he can depend on the silence of the influential big countries in the UN Security Council to proceed with the racial segregation policy and carry out repression and perpetrate crimes. Yesterday, President Clinton announced that any solution in the Middle East should secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Do peoples have a more legitimate right than that of self-determination?

The ninth session of peace talks is close and the Israeli rulers who are foundering in a series of hysterical stands have to give in to the facts and accept the reality that there can be no peace and stability without a just and comprerhensive solution on all the fronts, a peace that proceeds from the return of the occupied lands to their owners, lifts the repression and injustice from the Palestinian people, and returns the deportees to their homes. If the Israeli rulers try to study the situation and deduce results, they will inevitably discover that the exchange of land for peace and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions are the only way for security and stability in the Middle East.

Commentary Urges U.S. To Remove Hurdles

JN1004174493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has stepped up its efforts to hold the ninth round of the Washington bilateral talks on 20 April, in the presence of all parties involved. Although the Arabs have not boycotted the Washington talks, have not placed obstacles in the way of these talks, and have not asked for more than a fair, active U.S. partnership to remove the mines Israel have planted, the U.S. efforts are focusing on the Arab side and ignoring the Israeli Government's crimes and serious repressive actions in the occupied Arab territories.

There is no alternative to believing that the peace process is being threatened by the Israeli mines, including the issue of the expelled Palestinians whom the Rabin government removed from their homes without valid reason in order to create a terrorist atmosphere in the occupied Arab territories and to provoke the Arab parties involved in the Middle East peace process.

World politicians believe that the right to self-determination is sacred to all nations. All international constitutions, charters, and principles stipulate this right. How can the Rabin government claim to work for peace while imposing a tight military siege on the occupied territories, preventing the movement of Arab citizens, and boasting that the policy of racial segregation has yielded its fruits? How can the Rabin government claim to work for peace while building settlements in the occupied territories?

Peace can be achieved only if the parties involved believe in it. No one has been able to detect any sincere Israeli desire for peace. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the land is more important than peace, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has not displayed any readiness to exchange land for peace, although he acknowledged before the Knesset the failure of his repressive measures and the impossibility of bringing about calm, security, and stability without a political solution in the region. However, Rabin does not go as far as planning to implement UN resolutions and comply with the will of the international community.

Hence, the Arabs demanded Washington's intervention to put things in order. Peace is impossible with the existence of occupation, repression, denial of Palestinian rights, and ignoring Security Council resolutions. The U.S. administration should have strongly confronted the Rabin government for ignoring international charters and resolutions. Expelling hundreds of Palestinians is a flagrant violation of human rights. President Clinton has repeatedly announced that respect for human rights is one of his priorities.

There is no doubt that despite the clear U.S. circumvention of the deportee issue, Arabs will seriously and responsibly discuss the issue of participation in the ninth round of talks. The Arabs are eager to achieve a just, strong, and comprehensive peace; to prove once again their interest in the peace process; and to expose the false Israeli allegations. They also want to give the U.S. Administration a chance to fulfill its promise to be a complete, fair partner. But they also want the ninth round of talks to be a framework for serious talks and responsible treatment of substantial issue, including Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories and its recognition of the Palestinian rights.

This requires the U.S. Administration to exert efforts to make the Israel's rulers remove their obstacles, lift the siege imposed on the Palestinian people, and respect Security Council resolutions is letter and spirit, including the return of the expellees to their homeland.

Needless to say, the Arabs will unify their position on participation in the ninth round of talks, on dealing with substantial issues, and on adhering to a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict.

U.S. Urged To Be Neutral Partner in Talks

JN1104161593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Contacts are currently intensifying between the Arab parties concerned with the peace talks and the new Democratic U.S. administration in Washington before the upcoming round of talks which will be held on 20 April as scheduled by the peace conference cosponsors. These contacts focus on two objectives. The first objective is to remove the mines planted by Israel before resuming the talks, starting with the deportee problem and ending with the barbaric practices against the Palestinian human beings in the occupied Arab territories. The second objective is to become familiar with the new U.S. Administration's mentality in dealing with the negotiating process and with its concept of a full partner and whether this concept contradicts this administration's statements during the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit on strategic partnership between Washington and Tel Aviv.

It is natural for the Arabs to focus on exploring the vision of President Clinton's new administration concerning the peace process, especially since this process emanated from an initiative by the former administration based on assurances and clear and defined terms of reference. It is no secret that when the Arab parties entered the peace process, they were not depending on the Israeli stand toward peace. These parties also did not bargain on the possible existance of an actual and true Israeli intention to achieve peace. We are not exaggerating when we say that if the Arabs were actually depending on the Israeli stand toward the peace process, they would not have entered it. And if it were not for assurances presented by the peace cosponsors, particularly by the U.S., this process would not have advanced.

The experiment of the eight rounds which followed the Madrid conference proved the soundness of the Arab assessment that Israel does not have serious and sincere intentions toward peace. This experiment also proved that without a commitment and adherance by the conference cosponsors to the assurances they offered, the peace process will continue to face an impasse. Hence, the Arabs welcomed the new U.S. Administration's announcement that it is determined to play the role of a full partner in the negotiations. Moreover, the Arabs intensified current contacts to get an explanation for what the United States means by full partner.

The Arab parties defined their concept of a full partner by emphasizing the honesty and neutrality of that partner. This emphasis emanates from well-known accounts on the history of U.S.-Israeli relations and from the premise that Washington should abandon its traditional partiality toward Israel's interests and take Arab interests into consideration within the framework of regulations and principles drawn by the resolutions of international legitimacy on which the peace process is based. Honesty and neutrality are basic conditions for the U.S. role of full partner in the negotiations. Without these basic conditions, the U.S. cosponsor cannot create the momentum needed to advance the negotiating process or achieve a just and lasting peace in the region based on international legitimacy.

The Arabs are aware that Israel, particularly Rabin's government, is bargaining on the continuing blind traditional U.S. partiality toward Israel. This largely explains Israel's intransigent behavior and practices and the obstacles it is placing in the face of the peace process. Reality, however, proves that the continuation of this partiality will only push the peace process into the abyss. This prompts us to reempahsize that at a time when much of the future of the peace process depends on the role of the conference cosponsors and on Washington's role in particular, the Arabs are asking the U.S. cosponsor to be honest and neutral in its partnership in the negotiations if it actually wants to crown the current process with a comprehensive peace that guarantees lasting security and stability in the Middle East region.

Press Urges U.S. To Abandon 'Biased' Stand

JN1204063593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] TISHRIN highlights the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories under the military siege imposed by the Israeli authorities. It also discusses the peace talks and Israel's maneuvers before the ninth round, emphasizing Syria's adherence to the bases of the peace process.

TISHRIN says: In its meeting yesterday, the Israeli Government decided to maintain the military siege on the occupied Arab territories indefinitely. This decision did not surprise anybody. This is because the Rabin government is resolved to pursue iron-fist and terrorist policies to confirm its refusal to acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, foremost being their right to self-determination. This is also meant to show the kind of peace it is looking forward to—a peace that preserves its settlements, plans, and occupation, and entrenches Israeli hegemony over the resources of the region.

The paper goes on: Israel's games and maneuvers will be discussed at length by the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states who will resume their talks in mid-April to make a final decision on participation in the ninth round.

TISHRIN adds: It is in the interest of the Arabs to achieve a just, comprehensive peace that restores their occupied territories and ends the Palestinian people's suffering. It is also in the interest of the United States to bring about a real, durable peace that ends Israel's extortion of U.S. funds and weapons.

The paper notes that everybody now knows, including the people in the United States, that Israel is a financial, political, and military burden to the Americans, and that its aggressive, crude practices and serious violations of human rights and UN resolutions greatly harm the U.S. reputation as a superpower that should protect the international community, and not be an accessory to Israel's violations of the simplest human principles.

TISHRIN concludes: The Arabs want a just, comprehensive peace. They are therefore eager to go to the ninth round of talks collectively. Syria has repeatedly said that it will not take a unilateral position. It will remain faithful to pan-Arab interests, watching over the Arab cause and defending every inch of territory and every single right that belongs to the nation. Syria adheres to the bases of the Madrid conference. According to it, there is no solution to the Middle East crisis except a comprehensive political solution on all fronts. Any partial solution is doomed to fail.

AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's suppressive practices in the occupied Arab territories, affirming that bias toward Israel will not serve the peace process. The decision made yesterday by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to keep the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip closed until further notice proves that Israel does not give a damn about the international community and legitimacy, represented in the United Nations and its institutions.

AL-BA'TH notes that this Israeli measure comes at a time when efforts are being made to resume the peace talks, which came to a halt last January because of Israel's rejection of proposals to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: We, like others working to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region, expected the forces supporting Israel to do what is necessary to remove the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of peace. Nothing of this sort has happened, however. Actually, what happened was quite the opposite. Israel is still being given all kinds of support. This encourages it to challenge the world community and torpedo the peace process.

The paper asserts that Israel wants peace its way, that is, peace and land together. What attracts attention here is that the U.S. Administration, which launched the peace initiative in the first place, has to date not carried out its supposed role to promote the peace process, especially since the conditions and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace are more than clear.

AL-BA'TH concludes: If Washington wants to play a full-partner role in the peace talks, as it says, then it should be absolutely unbiased. But if it pursues its current policy, which is very much biased toward Israel, then the peace process will not move at all, and the situation in the territories might even get worse.

Afghanistan

Gunmen Clash in 'Major' Cease-Fire Violation

BK1004130993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, April 10 (AFP)—Rival mojahedin gunmen clashed late Friday and early Saturday in the first major violation of the Afghan peace agreement signed in March.

Light casualties were reported in the fighting, which coincided with visit to the capital by a peace observer team from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The clashes pitted Defence Ministry forces against Hazara Shiite faction guerrillas. The two sides exchanged mortar, rocket and machine-gun fire around Silo and Kote Sangi in the western suburbs of Kabul.

Two long-range missiles landed in the orthopedic center of the International Committee of the Red Cross, located just behind Silo, at midday (0730 GMT) Saturday, but there were no casualties, a Red Cross official said.

Shiite guerrillas belonging to the Hezb-e-Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] faction and stationed at Kote Sangi blamed Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's ministry for breaking the cease-fire.

"One of our men left his bunker and was riding a bicycle on the street when he was shot at and wounded. So was a passerby," the Wahdat commander said.

"Naturally we responded. We are obliged to. If we don't shoot back they will think our post is empty, and try to make some advance," he added.

The Afghan peace agreement, signed March 7 in Islamabad, brought the current cease-fire into effect, ending seven weeks of mojahedin factional fighting.

OIC Assistant Secretary-General Mohammad Ibrahim Bakr said his three-man team, which arrived in Kabul Wednesday, had come to Afghanistan to set up a permanent office to monitor the cease-fire.

"From the very beginning the OIC has been close to the Afghan question and we have tried our best to help our brothers in Afghanistan solve their problems," Bakr said, adding that 50 to 60 men drawn from the 51-nation OIC would be established in Kabul to help monitor implementation of the peace accord.

Bakr has so far met with President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his main rival Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] chief Golboddin Hekmatyar, who was named prime minister under the Islamabad accords.

Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-i-Islami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] faction, has so far failed to approve Hekmatyar's cabinet choices, in which Jamiat Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud is expected to be replaced by a Hekmatyar nominee.

Bakr said he also met Foreign Minister Salmon Gailani, Mas'ud, and Rabbani's ally Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettihad-e-Eslami, or Islamic Union faction.

Sayyaf's men, who supported Mas'ud's Defence Ministry forces in the inconclusive fighting in January and February fighting, reportedly included a number of Arab volunteers.

In a Saturday morning Foreign Ministry meeting, Bakr also talked with 30 or 40 parliament members chosen during the controversial December election of Rabbani to the presidency.

These representatives, who sat idle and forgotten as Rabbani and Hekmatyar attempted to settle their power struggle on the battlefield, have been excluded from the latest Afghan peace formula.

"They claim they were chosen by the people, and asked Bakr to declare their legitimacy," said a Foreign Ministry official present at the meeting.

Adding a further complication to an already complex formula, these men say that as the elected representatives of the people only they can elect the prime minister and approve his cabinet.

Therefore, they believe the Islamabad accords cannot be accepted until submitted to them for approval.

The softspoken Bakr, dressed in traditional flowing Arab robes, said he was flying back to Saudi Arabia via Pakistan Saturday.

Also in Kabul Saturday was Akram Zaki, head of the Political Department of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry.

"We are grateful for his visit and he is doing a good job. We gave him our ideas and points and he promised to carry them to Hekmatyar," said Interior Minister Ahmad Shah, adding that the cabinet dispute stemmed from Hekmatyar's failure to consult other leaders on the lineup.

Rabbani Views Current Situation, Cooperation

LD1104175793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, received separately for interviews today correspondents of [words indistinct] of Germany, the WAHDAT newspaper of Peshawar, and the AL-HAYAT newspaper of Saudi Arabia, at the presidential palace.

The BIA correspondent reports that while answering the correspondents' questions, the president of Afghanistan spoke about the importance of the current situation in the country, the Islamabad Accord, the formation of the

cabinet, and the possibility of friendly countries' cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The esteemed president said: Under the present conditions in which calm grows in the country, further grounds have come about for securing the cooperation of friendly countries. Our country is prepared to play its role actively in this respect. The possibility of the pursuit of financial and economic aid now exists in most parts of the country.

On the Islamabad Accord, Esteemed Prof. Rabbani said: All problems must be resolved through understanding. Under the Islamabad Accord, the cabinet shall be presented to the president after consultation with and the agreement of jihadi leaders. However, after the prime minister-designate submitted the cabinet list, most of the leaders spoke about the lack of consultation and thus opposed the proposed list. This requires that leaders be either separately or collectively consulted. In principle, the most important problem in forming the cabinet is this non-consultation with jihadi leaders and the opposition of most of the jihadi leaders. We want that the Islamabad Accord's implementation in [word indistinct] way.

Mentioning with gratitude the assistance of Islamic and neighborly countries with Afghanistan during the jihad, the esteemed president said: With the establishment of the Islamic state, our relations with those countries and other countries are (?ensured) through mutual cooperation, respect for national sovereignty, and noninterference in the internal affairs of one another and through diplomatic methods. War-ruined Afghanistan needs more than ever the material, morale support, and aid of friendly countries. We hope that those countries will cooperate in the reconstruction of our country as they did during the jihad.

Hekmatyar on Talks With Pakistani Emissary

BK1104125093 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] Charasiab (APP)—Chief of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] and Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar said here Saturday that Islamabad Afghan peace accord constituted the basic mechanism for settling the Afghan crisis. He was talking to newsmen after his hour-long meeting with the secretary general foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki at his headquarters, 21 km south of Kabul.

Mr. Hekmatyar said Islamabad peace accord was the "only and the last chance for peace in Afghanistan". He said the Afghan nation would not forgive the Afghan leaders if this opportunity to restore peace in their war-ravaged land was not availed by them.

The Afghans, he added, wanted peace. The Afghan neighbouring countries were also interested in peace and stability in Afghanistan. he said the Afghan Islamabad peace accord signed on Mar 7 should be implemented as soon as possible.

To question whether they discussed the areas of conflict in the Afghan crisis, he said "major portion of their negotiations" was focused on contentious issues.

The Hezb-e Eslami chief said "there were some small and minor hurdles which are going to be removed".

Replying to a question he said he had "very good talks and detailed discussions on all issues," with Mr. Akram Zaki.

The prime minister designate appreciated the efforts by Pakistan in seeking a peaceful resolution of the Afghan problem. "The amount of attention by Pakistan government is very commendable," he added.

Meanwhile Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani said here Saturday Afghan mojahedin groups were holding negotiations with each other and hoped Afghan crisis would be resolved in cooperation with Prime Minister Designate Golboddin Hekmatyar. He was talking to journalists here after he held talks with Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki at the historic palace here on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Rabbani said that the obstacles in way of implementation of the Islamabad peace accord signed on March 7, would be removed under the spirit of cooperation among the mojahedin [words indistinct] peace accord stipulated that every Afghan mojahedin group would cooperate with each other. He said he was ready to extend the spirit of cooperation.

The Afghan president eulogised the services of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the nation during the Afghan jehad. he said the Afghan nation valued their services in the hour of their

Iranian Aid Distributed to Refugees

LD0904152793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Food provided by Iran's Red Crescent Society was today distributed among refugees in Afghanistan's Mazar-Sharief camp. According to the IRIB correspondent, this is the second stage of aid provided in the past 15 days by our country for the Kabul refugees living in the Mazar-Sharief camp. About 1,500 refugees who have lost their homes and belongings in wars west of Kabul live in the camps.

Television Broadcasts Resume

LD1104171293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Ending a three-month break, Afghan television started its usual broadcast this week following the presentation of a transmitter by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Kabul television transmitter was damaged last year in the civil war. The television broadcasts four hours of programs every day.

Bangladesh

Fundamentalists Protest Rao's Arrival; 30 Injured

BK0904144393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By Nadeem Qadir]

(Text) Dhaka, April 9 (AFP)—At least 30 Moslem fundamentalists were injured Friday in clashes with police as they protested against the attendance of Indian prime minister at a summit here of South Asian nations.

Clashes erupted after supporters of the Islami Shahshan Tantra Andolon group emerged from the Baitul Mukarram national mosque in the downtown Purana Paltan area and tried to march on the Foreign Ministry through a police barricade, witnesses said.

Police swung into action and 25 fundamentalists were injured when the marchers refused to return home peacefully. Many of the protestors took refuge in the mosque from where they fought back, the witnesses said.

Hours earlier at least five people were injured when police, armed with clubs and water cannons, clashed with some 1,000 fundamentalists from another group, the Babri Mosque Action Committee.

The groups were demanding the rebuilding of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya, razed in December by Hindu militants.

"We will not let Rao come here without rebuilding the Babri mosque" and "Seize, seize, seize the airport," chanted the supporters as organisers reiterated their plan to march to the suburban international airport Saturday, when Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is due to arrive to attend the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Reliable sources said Rao would be flown to the city by helicopter from the airport.

Both groups threw stones at the police, who "could only club them to avoid spoiling the sanctity of the mosque," one witness said, explaining why the authorities did not resort to tear-gas.

Moulavi Azizul Huq, the leader of the "Babri Mosque Action Committee," said his supporters wanted to protest peacefully, but were prevented by police who immediately swung into action to stop the demonstration.

Plain clothes policemen detained Huq—who had been in hiding for two days until the rally—and rushed him to a waiting jeep, witnesses said.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuk have already arrived for the summit, which has been postponed twice at Rao's request following tension in the region sparked by the demolition of the Babri mosque in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

SAARC comprises of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Police also detained several of Huq's followers Wednesday and at least five demonstrators wearing white burial clothes Friday, police and witnesses said.

Official sources said security was further beefed up following the violence.

"We expect no more trouble," a security source said, referring to threats from other smaller anti-Indian groups to demonstrate "peacefully" Friday and Saturday.

Huq, who is believed to be allied to the fundamentalist Jamaat-e- Islami party, is also protesting along with several right-wing groups against New Delhi's attitude on use of water from shared rivers.

Bangladesh authorities imposed a five-day ban from Thursday night on demonstrations or processions in an unprecedented security clampdown for the SAARC summit.

Stagnation in Industrial Investment Observed

BK1204091893 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Stagnation in the country's industrial investment was evident in a disquietingly negative trend of significant drop in the imports of capital machinery in the recent months, reports UNB [United News of Bangladesh].

Import of capital machinery in the first seven months of the current fiscal (July '92 - Jan '93) dropped by 6.1 percent over that of last year, sources said quoting an official review paper.

The paper was presented on Wednesday at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Commerce Ministry.

According to the paper, import of machinery totalled Taka 346.83 crore during the seven month period against last year's figure of Taka 369.34 crore.

However, machinery imports in several sectors like readymade garments, packaging, medicine, and jute rose during the period.

An amount of Taka 5,700 crore was earmarked for imports in the industrial sector in 1992-93. But real imports in the first seven months stood at Taka 1,100 crore which is only 37.59 percent of the projected amount.

Imports of onion surprisingly dropped by about 73 percent making the commodity dearer in the market. Imports of milk food and POL (petroleum, oil and lubricant) also declined by 14.5 percent and 4.6 percent respectively during the period.

The country's import bill, including imports under back-to-back LCs [letter of credit] in the first seven months of the current fiscal stood at Taka 8,124 crore.

Export earnings totalled Taka 5,480.88 crore, indicating a deficit of Taka 2,647.38 crore in the country's external trade balance during the period. Deficit in the corresponding period of last year was Taka 3,265 crore.

Analysis of the export performance shows that several major commodities including readymade garments, raw jute, jute goods, leather, handicrafts, and those under crash program failed to reach their target in the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

Earnings of raw jute and the items under crash programme even declined compared to the corresponding period of last year. Raw jute lagged 25 percent behind its target and leather by about 21 percent.

Frozen food, tea, chemicals and hosiery products, however, achieved their targets. After last year's slump, frozen foods, and tea showed a remarkable recovery this year, crossing their respective targets by 20.80 percent and 30.40 percent.

The review paper noted that the overall export earnings during the first seven months of 1992-93 registered a 36 percent increase over the corresponding of the last fiscal, the amount failed to catch up with the target.

India

Hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane Ends

BK1004144293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The hijacking of the Delhi-bound Indian Airlines plane ended a short while ago with the authorities overpowering the 11 hijackers at Lucknow Airport. The police have taken them into custody and all passengers are safe. An Indian Airlines spokesman told our correspondent that the passengers will be brought to Delhi by the same aircraft.

Earlier, the plane landed back at Lucknow after it was hijacked by a group of 11 students who demanded that the Uttar Pradesh governor should come to the airport. The passengers also helped the authorities in overpowering the hijackers.

Fire-bombs Devastate Srinagar; 16 Die

BK1004155293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1522 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 10 (AFP)—At least 16 people were killed and hundreds of shops and houses burned down here Saturday during savage clashes between Moslem militants and Indian security forces, officials said.

Seven of those killed died in the fire which spread from an abandoned security complex and engulfed a cinema, six hotels, department stores, 150 houses and 200 smaller shops, witnesses and survivors said.

An official spokesman for the government of Kashmir, of which Srinagar is the summer capital, said the rebels hurled firebombs into the complex when Border Security Force (BSF) men were "re- adjusting" their defences.

"They (BSF troops) had not abandoned the building," he said and added only two people died in the inferno that engulfed five blocks of residential and shopping complexes from Lal Chowk in the city centre.

Kashmir police chief B.S. Bedi said an investigation had been ordered into the arson, one of the worst in Srinagar.

Residents said eight civilians drowned in Srinagar's scenic Dal Lake when their sampan capsized under the weight of frightened people fleeing from Lal Chowk where soldiers and militants fought fierce gunbattles during the blaze.

A bullet-ridden body was found elsewhere in Srinagar, the urban hub of Moslem secessionism, taking to 16 the number of deaths on Saturday, police said.

Some 70 people have reportedly died this week in separatist- linked violence in this city of 800,000 people.

The militants have accused the BSF soldiers of killing several civilians in cold blood during the week, an allegation which has been denied by the paramilitary force.

Army soldiers in armoured personnel carriers patrolled the streets after military fire trucks brought the blaze under control seven hours after it erupted at 9:00 a.m. (0330 GMT) in Srinagar, a former tourist resort.

"The gunbattles have also ended," the spokesman said referring to the savage fireplay that raged for well over three hours between pro-independence militants and Indian troops.

He claimed that the clashes were between rival Kashmiri militant groups fighting over last week's murder of a Moslem cardiologist belonging to the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) allegedly by assassins of another faction.

"The JKLF is on the warpath," said one police officer adding that members of the powerful group and fighters of the pro-Pakistani Hezbul Mojahedin organisation had remained locked in combat earlier Saturday.

Militant sources in Srinagar said leaders of several separatist organisations were trying to forge a truce between the Hezbul and the JKLF, but the reports of internecine fighting could not be confirmed.

Earlier Saturday, Indian troops opened fire in the Lal Chowk area after thousands of jubilant residents gathered to celebrate the torching of the BSF barracks, witnesses said.

Authorities slapped a citywide curfew as thousands of protestors took to the streets in Srinagar, the site of three days of non-stop violence including the overnight slaying by the BSF of a top militant leader.

Mohammed Maqbool Ilahi, one of the most wanted leaders of the campaign for the secession of Kashmir from India, and five other guerrillas were shot dead in a gunbattle with Indian army troops.

Ilahi was the number two man in the outlawed Hezbul, one of several groups waging an armed struggle for the past four years for the secession of Kashmir, India's only Moslem majority state.

Rao Links Dialogue to Extradition of Suspects

BK1204043093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has told Pakistan that any meaningful dialogue between the two countries is possible only if Islamabad traces out the Memon brothers, prime suspects in the Bombay blasts, and hands them over to India.

The prime minister was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday on his arrival after a five-day visit to Thailand and Bangladesh. Expressing his displeasure over Pakistan's handling of the Memon brothers case, Mr. Narasimha Rao told his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Nawaz Sharif during his brief meeting in Dhaka that there has not been any positive response from Islamabad on this case.

Describing the Dhaka summit as a landmark in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] history, the prime minister said the signing of the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement, SAPTA, has given a clear direction to the association to move into matters of trade and economic spheres which gives real meaning to the movement. He said that SAPTA will have an arrangement by which the member countries would give preferential treatment to each other in respect of certain commodities. [passage omitted]

Earlier, the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, who had also gone to attend the SAARC summit, told Indian newspersons at Dhaka airport that a lot of doubtful statements have been made by Islamabad which amount to a negative projection. Unless this projection is made positive, no dialogue is possible between India and Pakistan. He said Mr. Rao met Mr. Nawaz Sharif without any aides for about 35 minutes shortly before the concluding ceremony of the SAARC summit.

Iran

Azerbaijani State Secretary on Official Visit

Arrives 11 Apr

NC1104122893 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 11 (AFP)—Azerbaijan's state secretary arrived Sunday in Iran for high-level talks on the Armenian offensive in Azerbaijan, Iranian officials said.

Panakh Guseynov's unexpected visit came after the Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran, Nasib Nasibzade, on Saturday urged Tehran to help save the Azerbaijani town of Fizuli, just north of Iran's border.

Guseynov is due to hold talks with Vice President Hasan Habibi, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the officials said. [passage omitted]

Meets With Counterpart

LD1104180893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Azerbaijan State Secretary Panakh Guseynov and Mr. Hasan Habibi, first vice president of our country, discussed the situation in Azerbaijan in Tehran this afternoon. In those talks, the Azerbaijani state secretary described the latest situation and recent clashes between the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia and announced that the aim of his visit to Iran is to hold talks with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran before the start of negotiations between the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Guseynov continued: In order to find a solution to the recent clashes, we believe we must get help from friendly and Islamic countries.

Mr. Habibi, for his part, expressed concern over the recent clashes and said: The existence of such problems in the region is not in the interest of the countries of the region. Arrogant powers will use these events for their interests. Stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran has contacted a number of countries in order to solve the existing crisis in the relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Mr. Habibi expressed the hope that the war will end through political negotiations. [passage omitted]

Comments on Karabakh Crisis

LD1204110793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] At the end of his one-day trip to Iran, Azerbaijani State Secretary Panakh Guseynov once again called for Iranian support and aid for a peaceful solution to the Karabakh crisis. Stating that he had negotiated the issue with Iranian officials, he said that Azerbaijan's officials

and people were pleased and appreciated Iran's sensitivity toward the situation in Azerbaijan.

Speaking to our reporter, the Azerbaijani state secretary said: Although from the very beginning we proposed a peaceful solution to the Karabakh crisis, we are nevertheless always prepared to defend our land.

Vice President Hasan Habibi also spoke to our reporter:

[Begin Habibi recording] The visit trip was good. For one thing, we had frank and clear discussions on bilateral issues and relations. We told our brothers that, at any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian people throughout the country are concerned about the Azerbaijani situation. They want Azerbaijan to remain an independent and free nation.

For the Iranian people to continue this support, however, it is necessary for the Azerbaijani people to also show attachment and affection toward the Iranian people. We have no doubts about the Azerbaijani people. But we have complained about certain comments by some of their officials. We said this clearly and frankly.

Regarding the issues of the present situation, we are deeply concerned about the situation that has developed in Azerbaijan. We believe that the borders of each country and the former position of Azerbaijan must be maintained. There should be a quick end to the occupation. The way must be opened for friendly and peaceful discussions between the warring sides.

We believe that turbulence in the situation and in the area harms regional security. Regarding the fact that the events are taking place near Iranian borders, Iran is carefully watching the situation. Iran is determined and is proposing to both sides that peaceful negotiations be held and that the issue be resolved peacefully. But it is important at this time that the situation, and the occupation which has occurred, should end quickly. [end recording]

Meets With President

LD1204103493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Azerbaijani State Secretary Panakh Guseynov, who delivered a written message from Abulfaz Elchibey to our country's president.

In the course of the meeting the president said: The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], in accordance with its philanthropic intentions and in order to safeguard the tranquillity of the region, initiated extensive efforts in the early days of tension between the two states of Armenia and Azerbaijan to prevent a worsening of the dispute by finding a peaceful solution.

The president added: While maintaining neutrality, we have always invited both countries to find a political solution and to avoid war and bloodshed.

While stressing that the invasion and occupation of another country's territory has never been a logical and lasting solution to disputes and discords and will never be so, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The interests of the region and the world dictate that the current conflict must be stopped as soon as possible. The two countries' forces should withdraw to their previous positions, observing articles of the Tehran agreement, and they should seek a solution to the dispute through talks.

Referring to the close proximity of the area of conflict to Iran's border, the president of the National Security Council added: In view of the fact that this issue is directly linked to Iran's security, the IRI Government will be obliged to adopt a more serious stand if the course of events continue; we hope to avoid the adoption of such a stand by a speedy termination of war in the region.

In concluding his remarks, the president reiterated Iran's full readiness to strive to find a solution to the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia or to assist any country which, on the basis of philanthropic objectives, undertakes efforts to find a solution to the dispute between the two countries.

During this meeting, also attended by First Vice President Habibi and the ambassadors for two countries, Azerbaijani Vice President Panakh Guseynov, while submitting the message of his country's president, named the IRI as one of Azerbaijan's good friends and gave his thanks for Iran's support for the people of Azerbaijan after it gained its independence.

Presenting a report on the latest developments and clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the occupation of this country's territory by Armenian forces, Guseynov termed the existing situation and critical and grave and said: A new phase in the Armenian forces' attack on Azerbaijani territory has begun, and we expect the IRI to strive, just as in the past, to terminate the war.

Commentary on Trip

LD1204114493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Panakh Guseynov, state secretary of Azerbaijan, and an accompanying delegation comprising political and economic officials are currently visiting Iran. The Azerbaijani state secretary, who is carrying a message from Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey for our country's president, has come to Tehran to meet and confer with our country's political and economic officials about bilateral relations and the consolidation of ties. However, because of the continuation, and even

intensification of the fighting in the Karabakh region and surrounding areas, following attacks by Armenian forces against Azerbaijani territory, the trip has taken on particular importance from the political point of view.

At the moment, many towns and villages in the Republic of Azerbaijan are occupied by Armenian forces, and it seems as if these forces intend to continue pursuing their obscure aims. There is no doubt that these obscure aims, whatever they may be, will be unattainable because the operations of Armenian forces in Azerbaijani territory are considered to be clear acts of aggression against Azerbaijani territory, something which not only violates international legal and political principles and standards, but is also endangering the security of the countries of the region.

Currently, signs of possible interference by third countries in the conflict are increasing rapidly, and the increasing scope and severity of the crisis may have grave consequences for the two countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia and the other countries of the region. There is no doubt that supplying ethnic, religious and historical justifications for the current conflict in the Caucasus will have no other effect but to fan the flames of discord between the countries of the region. It is for this reason that the Islamic Republic of Iran has, from the start of the Karabakh conflict, taken a neutral stance and set its aim as the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means.

There is no doubt that the Republic of Azerbaijan's call for assistance from the Islamic Republic of Iran deserves a worthy response. Nevertheless, this response will primarily be within the framework of condemning all acts of aggression and of supporting all efforts made toward resolving disputes fairly and peacefully.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly offered help in all- sided efforts to resolve the Karabakh crisis, and it has consistently backed political solutions to this crisis, because the outcome of disputes of this nature has been and will always be tragic for both the Azerbaijani and Armenian nations. The human and material losses brought about by this war are too great for the two countries to bear for very long.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues, as in the past, to be prepared to take active and effective steps toward bringing disputes to an end and beginning political negotiations. Of course, such a course of action depends on the expression of good will on the part of those engaged in the fighting. In this connection, it seems that the Azerbaijani side is more inclined to cooperate toward achieving a peaceful resolution of disputes.

Musavi-Ardabili Comments on Islamic Unity

LD0904140593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Tehran Friday prayer first sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili at Tehran University on 9 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] Today is the 20th of Farvardin [9 April], the day when America announced the severance of its relations [with Iran], and his eminence the imam graciously said: What does Iran want to do with its relations with America? Then when the news spread, the martyr-nurturing people of Iran expressed satisfaction at the severance of ties and considered it as a good omen. That is what happened on that day. [passage omitted]

The topic of my discussion for today is the current tragic and regrettable situation that has engulfed the world of Islam. Muslims and Islamic territories are undergoing one of the most difficult and problematic stages of their history. Killing, plunder, massacre, invasion, slavery, destruction, and banishment are rife in all Muslim inhabited areas. Any news we receive is sad news about Muslims. One republic is Soviet Azerbaijan and another republic is Tajikistan. Since the collapse of communism not long ago, both these republics have been caught in such a dreadful situation. In Azerbaijan, Armenians have attacked Karabakh, making 7 million Muslim Shi'is mournful. Now the noise of their guns can be heard in some border regions of Iran. A visitor said that the sound of war and guns can clearly be heard around Germi and Parsabad and in other areas.

Yeltsin, that evil criminal of Russia, has picked up his begging bowl and is knocking on the doors of Europe and America, while Russia is suffering under the burden of thousands of problems. He thinks he has been successful; America has promised to give one one- hundredth of what he asked for. But he is busy killing Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan [as heard], in Tajikistan, and in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

In India, Muslims are being attacked by Hindus; the Babri Mosque fiasco was only one example of their onslaught. In Palestine, the Jew has been killing Muslim for years. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, hundreds of thousands have been killed or have died of hunger, thirst, and cold. Men and women, young and old, have been killed. In Egypt and Algeria, Muslims are being killed because they are termed fundamentalists—that means Islamists. Their crime is being Muslim; and they say this openly. In Somalia, Muslims are suffering under the boots of the criminal blood-sucking American troops.

And you saw what they did to Iran in the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war. You saw what they did in the Gulf, how they destroyed Iraq. They use many excuses—you are terrorists, you support terrorism, you are against human rights. These are their words. If there are any number of Islamic countries that are apparently on their feet, they have kept them for milking and in order to take their oil, money, and currency. They do this under the guise of: We are supporting you. We are supporting Kuwait, we are supporting Saudi arabia. [passage omitted: Muslims are suffering; greatness of Islam]

Mubarak is asking for U.S. help; Abulfaz Aliyev [Elchibey] in the Soviet Union [as heard] is asking for U.S. help, saying: Come on, America, help us. And the United States has proved how its helps others, as it did in Somalia, as it did in Kuwait, and as it did in the Persian Gulf. America receives money, foreign currency, and oil, and blockades and comes and sits near a strategic area and lords it and laughs at everybody. That is the American solution. America starts the war, it is the only superpower in the world; they ask for U.S. help, and that is the American solution for war-stricken and terrorized areas. [passage omitted saying that Muslims should know that the enemies are against them and bent on killing them]

There are a number of reasons for the miseries of Muslims today and the loss of all the glory and shining civilization, and their degradation and slaughter in this way. Instead of asking America and Russia... [Musavi-Ardabili pauses] Aliyev says to Russia: Come and help us. But Russia is helping Armenia, therefore it will not help you. Russia's army is fighting in Karabakh and in Bosnia-Herzegovina. And you want Russia to come and help you. [passage omitted calling on Muslims to unite and not to fight among themselves, and comparing the present bout of Muslim killings with the Crusades]

There is conflict between Muslims; opportunities are not utilized; God's blessings are not appreciated; sympathetic, serving, and sincere individuals are set aside; tasks are assigned to unsuitable and incompetent individuals who are imposed by foreigners. The people of Egypt did not vote for Husni Mubarak. The people of Egypt did not accept the Algerian council [sentence as heard]. [Passage omitted repeating the point about Muslim unity, citing some Koranic verses in Arabic, calling on Muslims to appreciate God's blessings and adhere to Islamic teachings, commenting on a future seminar on some Islamic scholars, and the second sermon which is purely religious]

U.S. Seen Attempting To 'Undermine' Economy With Exports

NC1004084193 Paris AFP in English 0800 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 10 (AFP)—The United States is boosting exports to Iran to undermine the Islamic republic, a radical Iranian newspaper warned Saturday.

"America has not yet given up efforts to infiltrate from within," the radical newspaper SALAM said. "One cannot remain indifferent to the unregulated flow of American and Western goods into the country.

"The import of American goods is a plague to our economy and should not continue under the pretext of economic reform," it added.

The editorial, appearing on the 13th anniversary of the break in diplomatic ties with the United States, said Iran had benefited greatly from the break and been able to survive in "dignity" without American help.

The newspaper condemned all efforts to re-establish ties with Washington. "All covert and overt attempts in attracting American investment have so far failed and the U.S. has not helped them as they expected," it said.

To learn a lesson, SALAM added, "the proponents of relations with America needed only to look at the miserable fate of the Soviet empire and that of the Russian people."

Velayati Refutes U.S. Remarks, Discusses Russian Ties

NC1104164693 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by ABRAR correspondent in Ahvaz]

[Text] Iran is not the only one accused of being involved in terrorist operations, this accusation has been leveled against all those who oppose U.S. interests. This statement was made by Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an address at the Ahvaz seminary, while he was commenting on Iranian-Russian relations.

Our current relations in all fields are far better with the Government and the country of Russia, our neighbor, than they were with the former Soviet Union.

Commenting on the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Velayati said: In the past when the world was bipolar, some countries got caught between the two domineering poles and could not even breathe easily, but with the decline of communism, the smaller countries got a break. In such circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran is considered a blessing in today's world, and in the Islamic world.

This is not a mere claim, both friends and foes admit to it. According to some, Iran today is the haven of many people and countries stifled in bondage, which are striving for liberation from the duress and tribulations that have been imposed on them. The Islamic Republic of Iran is thus a refuge for all Muslims.

He added: The war imposed by Iraq on Iran was a plot on the part of the arrogant powers, which is something even the Iraqi officials and supporters have admitted to.

Continuing his remarks, Velayati said: As a result of the war, the people of Khuzestan sustained heavy losses and hardship, and despite having spent billions of tomans, we still have the mammoth task of reconstruction ahead.

Alluding to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, he said: Today Israel considers Iran its greatest enemy and the agents of Zionism and Jews all over the world have become flag bearers of the struggle against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Unfortunately, some countries spread propaganda against us by acting as the agents of the Zionists and Jews.

The Foreign Minister referred to the recent remarks by U.S. officials against the Islamic Republic of Iran, stressing: The Islamic Republic of Iran will never be intimidated by such remarks, threats, or pressure and will continue to forge ahead on its path.

Velayati said: The error on the part of the West and the United States is that they imagine that if countries such as Iran and Algeria are given freedom, the people will not vote for Islam. [sentence as published]

Elaborating on the position of the dictatorial system in Algeria, he said: The Algerian people are struggling under the belligerent system in that country and no one in the West has even made the slightest mention of the violations of human rights in that country. This indicates that human rights, democracy, and other similar terms are merely instruments in the hands of the hegemonistic Western powers for exerting pressure on other countries.

Fortunately, today, the schemes of these powers have been exposed before the people. The fate of the countries of the former Soviet Union's communist bloc vividly reflects the outcome of countries that give a positive response to the West. They made lavish promises to Gorbachev and encouraged him to move in the direction that they favored and we saw Gorbachev's downfall as a result of domestic and economic difficulties. They did not extend any assistance to him and the situation continues. We are still waiting to see them fulfill their promises.

Therefore, if we wish to give a brief appraisal of our performance in the years after the revolution against our enemies, we can say that the principles of the revolution are responsible for preserving and consolidating the bases of the revolution with every passing day.

Today, Iran is viewed as a center of stability and a harbor for the geographical and political balance of the region. All around Iran there is disequilibrium, economic problems, and disarray, but Iran is considered a haven in its capacity as an important and large country with extraordinary capabilities because of its steadfastness.

Dr. Velayati recalled that the export of the revolution is a cultural phenomenon, a concept that cannot be forcibly exported. Neither can it be defeated by force, which is why we are witnessing its export with our own eyes today.

Velayati added: The policy of double standards on the part of the United Nations and other international organizations is an eye- opener to Third World countries. It is well known that adherence to international regulations is a mere instrument of propaganda used by domineering countries. What international regulations has Israel ever adhered to to gain the support of the U.S. Government?

The Israeli regime has trampled over international regulations and human rights more ruthlessly than any other country on earth and has perpetrated all kinds of atrocities, but it is still supported by the proponents of human rights.

In any case, the situation and position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, in the world of Islam, and on the international level is very clear. Our government is the supporter of justice, human rights, and democracy, and is opposed to terrorism and the violation of international norms. The Islamic Republic of Iran will never permit any country to pressure us or impose its own wishes on us.

Commentary Attacks U.S. Media's 'Poisonous Propaganda'

LD1104113593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0958 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] With the coming to power of the Democrats in America, the poisonous propaganda of the American media and other media affiliated to America against the Islamic Republic of Iran still continue to role on.

Such propaganda, which began immediately after the victory of the Islamic revolution, is still continuing full force. During this time—which comprises a part of Carter's term of office, two terms of Reagan's presidency, one term of Bush's presidency, and now part of Bill Clinton's presidency—the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly been the target of American propaganda attacks.

Assessing the U.S. administration's work against Iran indicates that, both during the government of the Republicans or the Democrats in America, the U.S. stance has been against the Islamic Republic of Iran and continues to be so, and in that respect no difference can be seen between those two political parties.

During the past 15 years, the Western media and American officials have always accused Iran of terrorism, of endeavoring to acquire nuclear weapons, violation of human rights, and being a threat to the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf. All such propaganda, usually performed on a perpetual basis, is only designed to defame Iran and create fear in other governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The strength and weakness of such propaganda, before being connected to Iran's foreign policy activities, is rooted in America's political ambitions and domineering goals. Through such actions, America intends to prove that it is pointless to be optimistic about economic progress and maintaining active international presence without having relations with the United States. The experience of the past few years shows that America spares no effort in that respect.

If Iran decides to purchase civilian airplanes on international markets, then America immediately raises the issue of the military threat posed by Iran. If Iran buys

trucks, then America screams again. If the Iranian Agriculture Ministry contacts a foreign company in line with its agricultural research, then the fear of Iran having access to chemical weapons is raised. If Iran signs nuclear energy agreements in order to generate electricity and for medical purposes, then it is said that Iran is trying to build an atomic bomb. And if an Iranian political figure visits another country, then they propagate that Iran is supporting fundamentalism. In short, for every national or international effort by Iran, a twisted and malicious analysis is broadcast to the world. These analyses, implicitly or explicitly, taunt nations with the prospects of ignoring America.

Iran is a member of the nuclear weapon's Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has—upon its many regular and unexpected visits—declared the non-existence of the capability to build nuclear weapons in Iran. On the other hand, and according to established international organizations, Iran's military expenditure is the lowest in Asia and Iran's budget is the least military oriented among Asian countries.

However, all these facts do not mean an end to the American propaganda offensive. The United States, in an effort to prove its leadership of the capitalist world, and in order to curry public opinion, needs to exaggerate the threat of a particular country. This old method has evolved, following the Democrats' coming to power, to mean that the precondition for friendly relations with the United States is opposition to Iran. In other words, if a country wants to use American banking funds or wishes to expand its trade relations with America, it has to first take an antagonistic stand against Iran.

It is on this basis that, during his trip to Washington, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak paid for American aid by attacking Iran. Or India—for greater relations with America, as well as improving and expanding Delhi-Washington relations—declared Iran a threat to its national security. This policy has even tempted countries such as Japan so that in order to reduce American pressure on the Japanese trade surplus, Tokyo has taken up a policy of propaganda against Iran.

However much the policy of attacking Iran might have short term benefits for America's close or distant allies, nevertheless it is sacrificing the interests of these countries for the benefit of America. Iran, more experienced than before, will pass through these obstacles.

Charge, Iraqi Minister Discuss Ties, Opening Holy Sites

LD1004125293 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—Iranian charge d'affaires in Iraq, Muhammad Kazim Tabataba'i, reviewed issues related to paying pilgrimage to the Islamic holy sites with Iraqi Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, in Baghdad Thursday.

The two officials also discussed issues of common interest.

The Iraqi minister expressed hope that the two countries would consider reopening of their holy sites to the pilgrims. He also hoped that further efforts would be made to expand mutual relations.

President's Office Denies Report of Habibi Resignation

LD1204090493 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's office has denied a press report on the resignation of the First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

In a letter to the English daily TEHRAN TIMES which appeared in its today's [as received] issue, head of the president's office rejected a report published by the daily on April 8 on Habibi's resignation.

Commentary Questions Lack of Government Spokesman

NC1104174593 Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Doesn't the Government Have a Spokesman?"]

[Text] The need for the people to be informed of the affairs of the government, and the fact that those in power should be responsible to those who have awarded them that power, demands that the government should have a spokesman to inform the people on the various issues and decisions pertaining to the government. The need for such a person is felt even more when some unexpected or important incident occurs. The people are eager to hear whether the government has taken any actions or entered into talks and what the views of the government are.

Unfortunately, since the beginning of last year, the government has been deprived of an official spokesman. Prior to that, Vice President Dr. Habibi performed this duty, holding weekly press conferences on the radio and television and regularly expressing his opinions regarding specific issues. However, since last year, without any reason for discontinuing such a practice, he stopped doing so, cutting off government contact with the people.

Now, once in a while, the president addresses the Friday congregation and cabinet members comment on some matters occasionally, but this does not fill the void.

Perhaps the questions arising in the minds of the people are: Doesn't the government have any other spokesman? Doesn't the government require a spokesman? Or, is it no longer necessary to have a spokesman and to speak to the people on various issues and responsibilities? When there is a spokesman, doesn't this imply that there is a sort of supervision of the government by the people that

results in rectifying discrepancies? Were there any particular reasons that resulted in the elimination of this duty on the part of the government?

These questions are being asked because the government does not have a spokesman. Therefore, we can speculate on possible or hypothetical reasons for the lack of a government spokesman:

1. Maybe it is due to a lack of coordinated policies in the government. A spokesman should be able to answer questions on the people's problems and reply to queries by the mass media. He should be able to give a specific (positive) justification on the decisions made by the cabinet. This is only possible when the government has a comprehensive and (relatively) coordinated program and all the cabinet members are committed to that program. Only in such circumstances can a spokesman reply to the questions in an appropriate and comprehensive manner.

2. Perhaps the government does not have a person qualified to perform this duty. This is not acceptable. How is it possible that a government can have a comprehensive program and not have individuals who are perceptive and aware of this program? If this program has evolved from the government itself, it is obvious that there are people who have the ability to explain and justify incidents within the framework of that particular program.

3. Or, perhaps the government is aware of the details of its program but does not want to be answerable for these details because it thinks any explanation will undermine the program. The correct answer may not be one that is acceptable to the people. For example, if the government gives an answer on the price spiral over the last year as a result of its program, it should state that, according to our program, we implemented a policy that is tantamount to permitting the retailers, rather than the government, to fix prices. Therefore, there should be no problem if the prices have risen and we accept this fact.

It is obvious that there are very few individuals who would be able to state such facts clearly and would not prefer to say: No. Of course there is no price spiral. Well, perhaps there is some, but it is minimal and therefore not very important. Then, instead of discussing the issue, they would hastily add that the enemies of the people and the revolution are concocting rumors. Or, last year we had 10 percent growth, which is unprecedented in the world, and other similar justifications.

It is clear that such statements are not accepted by the intelligentsia, especially when conflicting opinions are presented quickly in succession. First it is said that there will be no price increase, then when prices soar, it is announced that government commodities will not increase in price. When there is a further rise in prices, it is announced that the salaries of employees and workers will be raised in proportion to the inflation. There is so much delay in the reimbursement of the sums, though, that the pay raise is hardly felt.

The results of this situation are that no official or responsible individual is prepared to defend the existing situation, except the president and that is because he delivers a monologue [preceding word in English]. Thus, he does not have to answer any questions in what should be a dialogue [preceding word in English]. He merely presents his opinions while everyone else listens.

Now let us see what the outcome of such a situation is. When the president defends his policies he says certain things that no other spokesman has the courage to say. This is because the president enjoys a sort of immunity against expostulation. Therefore, if the president says we will give water and power free of charge to the people, no one in the media has the courage to criticize the idea, and the one who presents the idea gets the impression that the correct decision was made and there were no objections. When the same idea is presented by another person, (for example Habibi) you can see the controversies and arguments generated in the newspapers, which hassle him with criticisms they would not dare to utter at another. In other words, they attack the weaker person.

How long will this situation continue? It is evident that such answers will not convince the people. So, if such an individual does not have the courage to give the people the answers, he will only be the first recourse, instead of the president being the last resort to provide answers to the people. [sentence as published] In both instances, the people and the government stand to lose by this situation.

The solution is that the spokesman should be appointed by the government with adequate powers, this will eliminate all the obstacles in the path of the performance of his duty and affairs will be steered toward the right channel. God willing.

SALAM Urged To Speak Out on Position on Government

NC1204081493 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Mar 93 p 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "Why Isn't SALAM Answering?"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, RESALAT put some questions to the respected editor in chief of SALAM. Today, SALAM has not answered; it has avoided doing so on the pretext that RESALAT's approach has been illogical. By resorting to propaganda in a bid to feign that it is oppressed, SALAM has claimed: "We have nothing for you to take; all we have is this pen, which you can erase if you want to"

SALAM has described the questions put to it by RESALAT as unjust logic! This is odd. [passage omitted]

To avoid distortion, we would like to ask SALAM some questions that are heard in political circles. We hope you will answer calmly and without a fuss.

1. Is SALAM still the mouthpiece of the Militant Clerics Association, as stated by Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'iniha? Are all the unattributed commentaries certified by the Militant Clerics Association or is SALAM no longer its mouthpiece?

2. In view of the government's economic policies—different from those of the previous government—and since the effect of your faction implementing economic centralization for eight years is still felt, does the respected editor in chief of SALAM still support a centralized economy or does he consider it to be wrong? Do you accept the principles of the current economic policies that have been approved by the third term of the Majles or have you acquired a new stance? If so, why don't you let the public judge this new position? What are your economic plans for the system?

3. After the election for the fourth Majles term, SALAM encouraged all types of opposition under the label of the freedom of the press. Do you intend to gather together all the deviatory thoughts that you have named "heterodox" and form an opposition faction? If this is not your intention, why don't you refute it? If it is your intention, why don't you announce it?

4. On the eve of the 11 February anniversary of the Islamic revolution, Montazeri introduced himself as the so-called source of the revolution, contrary to the views of his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified. Basically, Montazeri deviated from the policy delineated by his eminence the imam, under which he was to limit himself to scientific teaching and lectures, and entered into politics. Does the respected editor in chief of SALAM accept this? What is SALAM's intention in speaking about Montazeri within the context of politics?

5. SALAM has not accepted the essence of the cultural onslaught, but has granted it a political nature and has reflected the ideas of those who officially support forging Western and Iranian cultures together. Do you believe in cultural liberalism? If not, state your views on culture.

6. Within the context of the absolute rule of the Vice Regency of the Supreme Jurisconsult, the role of the people's votes in determining what is right and so on, SALAM expressed surprising views during the election for the fourth Majles term. Do you still believe in those views and stances? Don't you intend to state your views on government and on this absolute rule to remove all the doubts about your views on the political system?

7. Part of SALAM's propaganda on the eve of the fourth Majles election aimed to reduce the people's votes. It was said that their votes would not affect the outcome. This method was pursued in another manner, when, after the spectacular march on 11 February, this newspaper tried to portray that not millions, but only thousands of people participated! Do you intend to strive to minimize the people's participation to reduce their role in the presidential election? If not, why the haste to question the government's achievements?

Pakistan

Sharif Returns, Comments on SAARC Summit

BK1204102393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed the hope that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] summit and the exchange of views among SAARC leaders will help expand close cooperation among member countries. In a statement on his return to Islamabad last night, he said the declaration approved by the SAARC summit reflects the views and stand of member countries on the organization's role in the years to come.

The SAARC leaders not only expressed their consensus on stabilizing the successes achieved by the organization during the last eight years, but also agreed to initiate new schemes in order to improve the condition of the people in their countries, the prime minister said. He said SAARC leaders have agreed that in view of the changes at the global level it has become necessary for the developing countries to make efforts to establish a political and economic system that will help in peaceful resolution of disputes, as provided by the UN Charter. The Dhaka Declaration also indicates the member countries' commitment to giving priority to the eradication of poverty. The declaration has also identified special steps in order to promote areas of cooperation and close mutual cooperation. They include areas such as environment, population, women's development, promotion of science and technology, and uprooting terrorism. On the preferential trade agreement signed by SAARC members, the prime minister said the agreement enshrines broader principles for mutual consultations on special concessions.

Referring to his meetings with SAARC leaders, the prime minister said that all aspects of Pakistan's relations with member countries were discussed during these meetings. It was agreed to expand ties on the political level and improve the system of organizations in order to promote economic cooperation. Referring to his meeting with the Indian prime minister, he said he emphasized that we should avoid taking any steps which increase tension and should create an atmosphere for improving our relations.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at the Dhaka airport, the prime minister said SAARC has provided a means to member countries to exchange views on mutual issues and resolve their problems. Radio Pakistan's special correspondent Bakshish Ahmed reports that Nawaz Sharif was given a warm send-off when he left Dhaka for Islamabad.

Akram Zaki on Outcome of Kabul Visit

BK1104090893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The Afghanistan Government and other leaders have assured Pakistan that they would stick to the cease-fire, stabilize it, and resolve their differences through bilateral negotiations in the light of the Islamabad Accord. Speaking to the newsmen who accompanied him to Kabul, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki said this on his return to Islamabad last night. Akram Zaki, who was on a day's visit to Kabul as a special emissary of Pakistan, had separate discussions with the leaders of Afghanistan, including President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Radio Pakistan's special representative, Abdus Samad Khan, who accompanied the secretary general to Kabul, has said that during their talks with the him, the Afghan leaders reaffirmed their determination to adhere to the Islamabad Accord for the restoration of peace in the country. It is understood that the Government of Afghanistan and other leaders have said that they would continue their talks to resolve their differences in a peaceful manner.

Minister: Talks With U.S. Official 'Positive'

BK0904145793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, special assistant to the prime minister, today continued his talks with officials of Clinton administration in Washington. He had a meeting with the under secretary of state for political affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff, and discussed the entire range of United States-Pakistan relations in a cordial atmosphere. A senior Pakistani official described the meeting, which lasted about 75 minutes, as positive. During the meeting, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan assured Pakistan's full cooperation to the United States in putting an end to any terrorist activity. He reiterated that Pakistan is as much committed to combating terrorism as the United States, having been itself a victim of terrorist activity in the not-too-distant past.

During the talks, Mr. Tarnoff was briefed on Pakistan's policies and perceptions on the nuclear issue, narcotics, progress in the field of democratization, and human rights. He was also informed about the economic policies of the present government, especially privatization, deregulation, and general liberalization of the economy. Mr. Tarnoff is understood to have expressed the U.S. Administration's appreciation of the statements made by Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, both in regard to bilateral relations and Pakistan's domestic policies. He hoped that the Clinton administration would be able to work productively with the Government of Pakistan.

Further on Talks With U.S. Officials

BK1004150693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1413 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has asked the United States to put pressure on India for a just solution of the core issue of Kashmir. This was stated by Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, special assistant to the prime minister, while addressing a news conference in Washington. He emphasized that solution of the Kashmir issue would also help eliminate nuclear proliferation in the area. Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan who concluded his three-day talks with officials of the Clinton administration, including the secretary of state, Mr. Warren Christopher, said as a result of the first high-level contact, there is now a greater understanding of Pakistan's stance and views in the Clinton administration on matters relating to our bilateral relations. He underlined the need for follow-up steps in order to bring Pakistan-United States relations on an even keel. Replying to a question, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan said there is a tendency on the part of India to blame everything on Pakistan. During his meeting with Mr. Christopher, he underscored Pakistan's apprehension that the talk of terrorism by India is aimed at clouding the basic issue of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people and atrocities being committed by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. The Kashmir issue is the stumbling block in relations between the two countries. Once the Kashmir issue is solved, India and Pakistan can sit down as friendly neighbors to sort out other issues.

Indian Troops Kill 40 Youths in Kashmir

BK0904145993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir say 40 youths were martyred and 50 injured when Indian troops opened indiscriminate fire during house-to-house searches in various parts of the held valley. Twelve youths were martyred by Indian troops in various localities of Srinagar alone. Seven people, including two women, were shot dead in Pulwama without any provocation. Reacting to the Indian brutalities, mojahedin attacked a military patrol and killed three Indian troops. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] over 100 innocent people have been arrested and sent to interrogation centers.

Another 20 Killed

BK1104142893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, another 20 people have been matyred by Indian occupation troops. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], 12 youths, who were arrested during house-to-house search in Srinagar, were killed in detention. Ten more bodies have been recovered from the debris of burned houses in downtown Srinagar, raising the number of those burned alive to 47. Reports say over 300 houses and shops and commercial

buildings were set ablaze by occupation forces. Thousands of people today demonstrated in downtown Lal Chowk to protest against the brutalities of the troops. The demonstrators raised anti-India slogans and demanded immediate end to atrocities being perpetrated by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

Assembly Delegation Leaves for New Delhi

BK1004150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1413 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] A 13-member parliamentary delegation led by the speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, left for New Delhi to participate in the Interparliamentary Union conference. Addressing a news conference at Islamabad airport prior to his departure, the speaker said in the course of their informal contacts and interaction with the Indian authorities, intellectuals and jurists, they would urge them to ensure visits of parliamentarians and human rights organizations to occupied Kashmir to examine gross violations of human rights. Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan said India should honor the commitments made by her at various international forums regarding the issue of Kashmir.

Government Orders Expulsion of 98 Arabs

BK1004170293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1646 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 10 (AFP)—Pakistan has ordered the expulsion of 98 Arabs from its northwestern region as part of a crackdown on Islamic groups accused of complicity in international terrorism, officials said Saturday.

Officials in Peshawar, capital of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), said the Arabs had been living illegally in Pakistan and did not possess valid documents.

Their nationalities were not disclosed and it was not clear how and when they would be expelled from the country.

In the ongoing four-day old operation, police have rounded up more than 200 men including Algerians, Egyptians, Palestinians, Sudanese, Syrians, Saudi Arabians and Tunisians, said an official for the government of NWFP, which borders Afghanistan.

Some Arabs were freed with only those staying unlawfully being held, he said, adding that the operation was continuing in accordance with the instructions of the federal government.

Islamic groups and non-governmental organisations have accused the authorities of "inhuman treatment" and "torture" over the roundup of Arabs who have been living in Pakistan after having worked with the Afghan mojahedin during the rebels' 14-year anti- communist war.

Members of the Arab community in NWFP said the number of people detained was much higher than officials have acknowledged.

The crackdown on Islamic groups in Pakistan comes after several governments, including those of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, complained that Arab veterans of the Afghan war based in Pakistan had been organising fundamentalist campaigns in their countries.

THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER newspaper has reported that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had given 67 names of people wanted in his country when he met with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Germany late last month.

The Foreign Office did not comment on the press report but a statement released upon Sharif's return here said Pakistan and Egypt would cooperate in combatting terrorism in each other's countries.

Sources said some 6,000 Islam fundamentalists participated in the "Jihad," or holy war against the Soviet-backed forces in Afghanistan.

The Soviets pulled out in 1989 but the war ended only last April with the takeover of Kabul by the mojahedin. Some 2,000 Arab volunteers stayed on in the NWFP, however.

Concentrated mostly in Peshawar and along the Afghan frontier, many volunteers had joined Arab non-governmental organisations engaged in relief activities in the war-ravaged Muslim country.

Others remained with various mojahedin factions.

A senator with Pakistan's Jamat-i-Islami faction, Khurshid Ahmed, met the country's interior minister Friday and later told reporters that some 250 Arabs, some "highly qualified people in the field of health and education," had been arrested.

Ahmed said "police resorted to torturing these Arabs at the behest of Egyptians, who are deadly opposed to Islamic fundamentalists," according to the state-run PAKISTAN TIMES.

It said the interior minister has ordered officials to take action against policemen found guilty of committing excesses against Arabs.

'Externment of 74 Arabs' Ordered

BK1104064693 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Apr 93 p 1

[By Ismail Khan]

[Text] Peshawar—The Pakistan Government in an unprecedented move has ordered the externment of 74 Arabs arrested during the on- going operation against illegal aliens in the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province].

An Arab who has been served with externment order said he had been asked to leave Pakistan by Sunday.

A team comprising the Special Branch, the CIA [Crime Investigation Agency], and immigration officials is interrogating the Arabs held during the operation and the number of those to be externed is likely to rise further.

Police sources put the number of those rounded up so far at around 200. But the Arab community claims the figure was far higher than the reported one.

A highly placed government source disclosed to the news that orders of externment were being served on the Arabs illegally staying in Peshawar and were not related to any of the Arab non-government organisations (NGOs).

"They have no business to stay here since the Afgan jihad has ended", remarked the official source.

The externees, he said had been allowed to go to any country of their choice but would not at any cost be allowed to enter Afghanistan again. The government, he indicated, had not yet decided to deport Arabs illegally staying in [words indistinct] since deportation was a lengthy process and could lead to complications.

The Peshawar police launched a crackdown against the Arabs in Peshawar on April 7 to round up those illegally staying here.

The government also tightented the entry point of Khyber Agency to stop the Arabs from fleeing to Afghanistan. A senior police officer said they had rounded up around 200 Arabs so far.

The operation has slowed down a bit, though he denied the police had received any fresh instructions from the government in this regard. The Arabs who were arrested during the operation have now been shifted to the Gorghatri Police Station in Peshawar.

A government official said the Arabs who were served with externment orders had been asked to make arrangements for their air tickets, though he said the government would have to do something in this regard for those who had no money.

Information gathered from the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] booking office in Peshawar revealed the Arabs served with externment orders were coming in large numbers to buy tickets. A PIA official said the Egyptians were preferring to go to Khartoum in Sudan, while the Algerians were intending to go to Casablanca in Morocco.

The Iraqi arabs, according to the official were looking to go to Jordan and the Tunisians planned to head for Austria.

Their preferences for these countries, he siad were based on minimal visa problems they could encounter there.

Yasir, an Egyptian young man in his late twenties is one of the externees. He came literally crying to the booking office to find a PIA flight to Khartoum. He said he had been asked by the Pakistani authorities to leave Pakistan by Sunday.

Most Arabs are facing difficulties in getting tickets for the countries of their choice due to less time and resources.

Meanwile, a meeting of the 13 Arab NGOs held here on Friday announced to close down their offices on Saturday and Sunday to protest the arrests and improper behavior and treatment given out to the Arab employees.

In a letter addressed to the Commissioner Afghan Refugees, NWFP, the president of the Islamic Coordination Council [ICC], comprising the 13 NGOs, Wael Hamza Julaidan, said while taking this step, the council wanted to express its resentment and anxiety over the attitude of the administration which he added had sent a wave of insecurity and uncertainty which might lead to the discontinuation of relief services in Pakistan.

The ICC members demanded of the Pakistani Government to take necessary steps for the removal of such "unhealthy atmosphere" by taking into consideration the useful services and cooperation of the Islamic NGOs."

Blasts Reported in Karachi; 4 Injured

BK1104082093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] A few blasts took place at six places in Karachi this morning. According to reports, these blasts were occurred [as heard] at Burns Road, (Ranchor) Line, Orangi Town, Mir Hasan Square, Golimar, Chaurangi, and Liaquatabad, in which four people, including a woman and three children, were injured. Law-enforcing agencies have tightened security and intensive patrolling is going on in these areas.

Defense Production Minister Resigns 10 Apr

BK1004155093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 10 (AFP)—Defence Production Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani resigned Saturday becoming the sixth member to quit Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's cabinet in Pakistan's current political crisis.

Bijarani said he had resigned because of what he called Sharif's "indifferent response" to his suggestions on important national, international, regional and administrative issues.

The minister said he had submitted his letter of resignation to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Sharif is currently in Dhaka attending the South Asian Association for Rregional Cooperation (SAARC) summit.

Bijarani cited the ethnic problems in his home Province of Sindh as well as the controversial repatriation of Biharis from Bangladesh as the main reasons for his action.

But, observers linked the resignation to the current power tussle between the president and prime minister that has caused a split in the ruling Pakistan Moslem League (PML) and desertions from the cabinet.

Bijarani's move closely followed a statement by law minister Abdul Ghafoor that the differences between Sharif and Ishaq Khan had been resolved and the crisis was over.

Ghafoor said Sharif had dropped a plan to amend the Constitution to reduce presidential powers, after having announced his decision to back Ishaq Khan for a second term in the presidential elections due in November.

The dissidents have disputed the claim, while the president himself has not made any comment publicly despite demands by different quarters to remove the prevailing political uncertainty in the country.

In his resignation letter, released to the press, Bijarani complained that his proposals for socio-economic and political steps to solve the southern region's "protracted crisis" were not taken into account.

This had resulted in "failure" to achieve the objectives of a nearly year-old Army operation launched in Sindh in mid-1992 to curb banditry and lawlessness, Bijarani said.

He said Sharif had also ignored the "apprehensions" and "resentment" of the Sindhi-speaking population against his plan to repatriate some 138,000 Urdu-speaking Biharis who retained Pakistani citizenship when Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, gained independence in 1971.

Some 63 Bihari families arrived in Pakistan in January from Bangladesh and Sharif has promised to repatriate the rest in phases.

The arrival of the first group had sparked demonstrations in Sindh and several people were killed in an explosion which police linked to the anti-repatriation campaigners.

The Urdu-speaking Mohajir settlers who migrated from India after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent and are concentrated in Sindh's major cities support the Bihari repatriation.

But, most native Sindhis oppose it. They fear the incoming Biharis, whom Sharif wants to rehabilitiate in Punjab Province, will enter Sindh and upset their majority in the region.

'Text' of Resignation Letter

BK1104060893 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] Karachi—Federal Minister for Defence Production Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani Saturday annouced his resignation from the federal cabinet.

In a letter to the president, copies of which were circulated to the press by his private secretary, Bijarani said that he was resigning the cabinet in view of indifferent attitude of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif towards his coalition partners, his party, both in and outside the assembly, and most of his colleagues in the cabinets.

He has also listed ignoring the apprehensions of the Sindhis regarding the repatriation of Biharis, as one of the reasons for quitting the cabinet.

Bijarani is the fifth federal minister to resign. Earlier, Hamid Nasir Chatha, Anwar Saifullah, Haji Gulsher Khan and Muhammad Azam Junejo had tendered their resignation.

Following is the text of resignation letter addressed to the president.

"The prime minister has been arrogantly ignoring his coalition partners, his party, both in and outside the assembly, and most of his colleagues in the cabinet. Even ministers, not to speak of [word indistinct], complain that he has no time for them to discuss important national issues. He takes the parliamentary party for a ride and seldom bothers to attend the parliament sessions. The irregular and delayed cabinet meetings are held in most casual manner while crucial political decisions are taken by the prime minister in consultation with a few hand-picked ministers and a couple of sycophant bureaucrats outside the cabinet.

"In view of his indifferent attitude towards my suggestions regarding important national, international, regional and administrative issues and his general apathy towards consultation with his cabinet colleagues on such vital matters, I am constrained to resign from the federal cabinet for the following [words indistinct] A) "My proposals regarding pot-operations, socio- economic package and political solutions to pull Sindh out of its prolonged and protracted crisis were never taken into account, which have consequently resulted in failure to achieve the objective of operation clean-up.

B) "The apprehension of the indigenous Sindhis regarding the repatriation of Biharis, analysed and highlighted by me were never given due weightage nor was this vital issue discussed in the cabinet. This has resulted in ever increasing resentment amongst the Sindhis, further deepening the polarisation, to which I cannot remain oblivious.

C) "Prime minister's inertia and inequitous policies of his government towards the civil servants belonging to

smaller provinces inevitably lead to presonal resentment. The rural Sindhis are not only under-represented in the federal services, but also discriminated against the postings and in certain cases even victimised. This fact, when brought to personal notice of the prime minister, did not bring forth any positive response.

D) "The failure on the part of the prime minister to check the blatant violations of rules of business by some ministers, especially in the case of defence production division where constant infringement was made in its well defined jurisdiction, creating chaos and confusion, hampering the smooth functioning of the division. This has made it impossible for me to discharge my functions in the best interest of the federation.

"My protests regarding continuous interference in the working of defence production division have gone unheeded.

"I, however, assure you of my dedication to the federation of Pakistan and selfless service to the nation in my capacity as a patriotic Pakistani."

Wife Claims Late Army Chief Assassinated

BK1104135393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, April 11 (AFP)—The wife of late Pakistan Army Chief Asif Nawaz claimed Sunday her husband was poisoned in a political murder and did not die from a heart attack as stated officially.

"I am sure that his unnatural death was a political assasination," Nuzhat Nawaz said rejecting the official version given for the death of Nawaz, who died in Rawalpindi on January 8 at the age of 56.

"Expert medical opinion collected by us reinforces our suspicion that his death occured on account of the administration of a poison which shrinks and narrows the veins," she told a press conference here.

Death from the poison would take some three months and would give the appearance of a heart attack, she alleged, adding Nawaz died about 45 days after he suffered from an illness on November 24 which was diagnosed as food poisoning.

She claimed the November diagnosis did not conform to his symptoms which included pain in his calves, a very heavy head and constant sore throat as well as puffiness in his face.

She said she had already consulted lawyers and would be lodging a formal complaint with the police so that "the people of Pakistan and the world should come to know the reality."

Official comment was not immediately available.

Observers said the sensational claim could increase pressure on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who is already trying to deal with a political crisis caused by a split in his party and the resignation of six ministers caused by his uneasy relations with powerful President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Nuzhat said "I am fully aware that those who assasinated him could also take my life. But, as the wife of a brave Muslim soldier, I have no fears."

She said she used to receive anonymous letters warning of the dangers to her husband's life.

She also accused several senior members of the government, including a minister, of wanting to get her husband out of the way as he would not allow the Army to be used for political reasons, or allow anyone to interfere in the running of the military.

"These values of his character did not find favour with some of those in power and he had to pay for it with his dear life," she said.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Launches Good Friday 'Massacre;' 19 Dead

BK0904114093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 9 Apr 93

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, April 9 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas marked Good Friday with a daring day-light attack on security forces, killing 19 soldiers for the loss of at least three of their own men, the military said.

About 75 gunmen of the liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed an army patrol and carried out a simultaneous raid on a nearby fortified bunker line in the northeastern Weli Oya region, a military spokesman said.

He said an officer and 18 soldiers were killed in the intense two-hour close range gunbattle. Army reinforcements retaliatied using tanks and artillery. A helicopter gunship and a fixed wing bomber too were rushed to attack Tigers.

"We have recovered three terrorists bodies. We found their weapons also. Tanks scored several direct hits on groups of terrorists. Pilots confirmed attacking another group found in an open space," a military officer said.

He said there were unconfirmed reports of up to 20 LTTE deaths. However, it was believed that Tigers may have suffered heavy casualties due to ground and air attacks, the officer said.

A search operation was under way in the jungles surrounding Weli Oya, a controversial settlement of Sinhalese farmers under a major river irrigation program.

Some 15,000 Sinhalese villagers live in Weli Oya under tight security provided by security forces to prevent Tiger attacks against them. Villagers have been frequent targets in the past.

The Good Friday massacre was the worst single loss suffered by security forces this year. The attack also belied government claims that Tigers were unable to carry out major attacks in the northeastern region.

On the last Christmas eve, suspected LTTE gunmen wiped out 42 soldiers in the same region carrying out a similar raid on Army posts and a group of soldiers who were engaged in an anti-rebel operation.

Tigers have also been often accused of turning Good Friday to Black Friday with massacres of soldiers or civilians in the past too.

The heavy blow to the Army came as soldiers elsewhere claimed capturing two key bases of the LTTE used to smuggle supplies from neighbouring India. LTTE men fled as troops advanced in northwest Mannar region Thursday, an earlier military mistatement said.

It said the rebels used the two bases to unload and stockpile their supplies brought from India as well as other coastal regions of Sri Lanka. Troops found diesel, kerosene, six boats and a large stock of dry rations from the sites.

Security forces have banned civilians transporting some 45 items, including fuel, medicines and sweets, to rebel-controlled areas of the island's north in a bid to weaken the Tiger guerrillas.

The statement said soldiers were backed by helicopter gunships but did not say if there were any casualties. However, it said the rebels may have suffered losses.

The LTTE is leading a violent campaign to establish an independent Tamil homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. Thousands have died in unending fighting.

Four LTTE Bases in Mannar District Destroyed

BK0904123893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1014 GMT 9 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 9 (LANKAPUVATH)—Four LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists bases were destroyed by Sri Lankan security forces on Wednesday and Thursday in northern Mannar District. The Joint Operations Command (JOC) told LANKAPUVATH that an operation code named "Conch Shell" was launched on Wednesday in jungles of Wilpattu North, Marichchikaddi and Mullikulam in Mannar District in a bid to destroy terrorist bases in the area. Troops advanced about 30 kilometres and during the advance cleared two terrorist bases located south of Madaragam Aru at Kattankandan Kulam and Arthimotai. On Thursday, troops with the help of helicopter gunships attacked two terrorist bases at Marichchikaddi and Miliidulam. The JOC said with the onslaught of advancing troops, the terrorists abandoned both camps and fled into the jungle with their casualties. Troops cleared the entire area up to the coastal line. The area is used by LTTE terrorists for smuggling of supplies via sea route and store houses of these camps are used to stockpile supplies, until they are transported to other bases. The JOC also said that troops recovered a large number of logistic supplies, stocked for onward distribution and boats used to smuggle these supplies. Meanwhile, a report from Eastern Province states that at Ranamadukovil in Ampara District, STF [Special Task Force] troops during a search operation recovered four AK-47 rifles. At Narakkamula in Batticaloa District troops of "Operation Sumana II" located three recently abandoned terrorist camps and recovered 25 gunny bags of rice and dhal [lentils].

Twelve Senior LTTE Cadres Killed in Weli Oya

BK1004115893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0754 GMT 10 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 10 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)- Twelve senior LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists, including a group leader, have been confirmed killed, in Friday's encounter between the security forces and the LTTE between Kalyanapura and Athugaswewa at Weli Oya in northern Mullaithivu District.

The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that also many LTTE cadres were seriouly wounded during the encounter.

Troops have recovered three terrorists bodies along with weapons.

According to an LTTE radio transmission monitored technical sources said, LTTE casualties due to coordinated ground, air, armour and artillery action are expected to be very high.

Army Searches Jaffna; 40 LTTE Men Killed

BK1104134493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0958 GMT 11 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] confirmed over a radio transmission Sunday morning that 40 terrorists were killed in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent Sri Lanka's security forces from marching forward in Jaffna and clearing an area of four square kilometres from the Forward Defence Locality [FDL] of the sprawling Palaly military base in Jaffna, as they launched operation Suli Sulang-I.

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command [JOC] told LANKAPUVAVATH that in a battle at Iddaikadu on the Thondamannar border of the Jaffna lagoon, tank fire had destroyed a truck carrying 17 terrorists. One group had run into a house which had [been] destroyed. Fighter ground attack aircraft had carried out a strong support role and destroyed many enemy positions.

The JOC spokesman giving details of the operation told LANKAPUVATH "Operation Suli Sulang-I" troops broke out of the eastern FDL's of Palaly at 0630 and commenced the search of Iddaikadu from north to south. During the search, troops experienced resistance but continued their task. A group of about 17 terrorists who charged towards a single tank, was effectively engaged by the troops. Terrorists used mortars extensively, causing few casualties. Terrorists reinforcements from Vadamarachchi moving in a jeep, truck and five motor cycles were destroyed with direct hits by armour. The truck toppled into the lagoon and caught fire. Terrorists in prepared positions on far side were engaged effectively by fighter ground attack aircraft, artilery, and mortar fire. Air operation ship [sentence as received]. Naval gun boat was positioned north of Thondamannar. During the day's encounter, troops suffered five wounded. Estimated terrorists casualties [were] approximately 40 killed or wounded.